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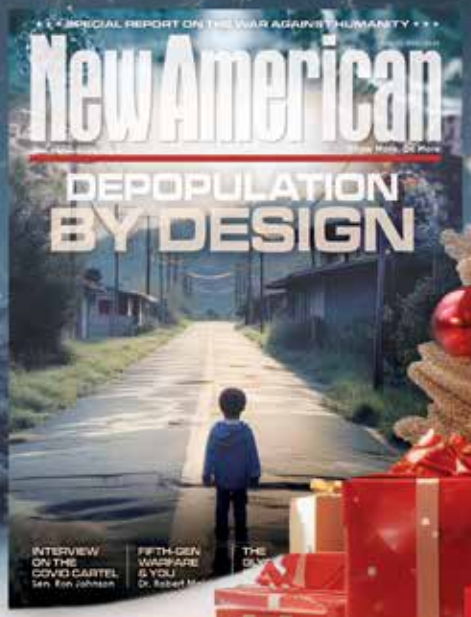

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New American

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New American

Printed in the U.S.A. • ISSN 0885-6540
P.O. Box 8040 • Appleton, WI 54912
920-749-3784 • 1-855-392-2666 (fax)
www.thenewamerican.com
editorial@thenewamerican.com

Rates are $59 per year (Canada, add $9; foreign, add $27) Copyright ©2024 by American Opinion Publishing, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Appleton, WI and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send any address changes to *The New American*, P.O. Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54912.

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The New American is published twice monthly by American Opinion Publishing Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of The John Birch Society.

Become Informed — Then Vote

The first part of the above headline is not heard nearly so often as the second part. At first thought, this might seem strange. After all, the same media echo chamber that chants "Vote, vote, vote!" would never implore young people to start driving a car without also emphasizing the importance of learning how to drive safely before ever getting behind the wheel and taking off on their own. Why should voting be taken any less seriously — particularly considering that voting the wrong candidates into positions of political power could ultimately end up being much more dangerous to innocent people than reckless driving?

Upon further reflection, however, it does make sense for the media echo chamber to encourage people to vote without also emphasizing the importance of becoming well-informed — if the intent is to beguile people into voting for the echo chamber's favored candidates. Uninformed or misinformed voters are easily beguiled. And it is not just the media that do the beguiling, but also the political demagogues who feign to be the voice of the people while intending to amass power for themselves if given the opportunity.

This is not mere conjecture or theory, but has been proven time and again in the laboratory of history. The German people voted Hitler's National Socialist German Workers' Party (aka the Nazi Party) into power hoping to improve their lives — they instead got tyranny and the Holocaust. If the German people had been much better informed, history would have turned out to be very different.

Today, the media echo chamber compares Trump to Hitler, but makes no such comparison between Harris and Hitler. Why is that? Is the echo chamber being accurate by associating one of these presidential candidates with Hitler but not the other? To answer that question, consider that *anyone* intending to become an American Hitler would need to amass more and more power in Washington, D.C., on the way to total and absolute power. Now consider who advocates a greater transfer of power, Trump or Harris?

The fact that such a power grab may be carried out by supposed champions of the people, and that it may be advanced under different flags such as "socialism" (as both the Nazis and communists have done) or "progressivism" and "equity" (as American liberals do today), does not make it any less dangerous. This is true even if the candidates themselves honestly believe that their platform would benefit the people, which is often not the case.

So there is much more to the responsibilities of citizenship than simply voting. Should we vote? Of course! But it would be better to not vote than to cast an uninformed ballot.

This issue of *The New American* includes two cover-story articles on the two major-party candidates for president: Donald Trump and Kamala Harris (pages 10 and 17), and we recommend that you carefully consider the information and analysis in both. In the interest of full disclosure, we fully acknowledge that these articles, like the echo chamber we are competing against, have a point of view. But unlike the echo chamber, our point of view is based on a belief that government should be large enough to secure our freedoms, but not so large as to devour the very freedoms it is supposed to protect. Also unlike the echo chamber, we are honest in our reporting and evaluate politicians based on principles, not partisan politics.

We also recommend using our congressional scorecard to learn, in particular, how your own U.S. representative and senators voted on key issues based on the Constitution (page 24). The case can be made that familiarizing yourself with congressional candidates is even more important than familiarizing yourself with presidential candidates, since the Constitution delegates more powers to Congress than to the presidency. For instance, *all* federal legislative powers are delegated to Congress.

And we recommend familiarizing yourself with who's running for state and local offices, as well — keeping in mind that, in our system of government, all powers not delegated to the national government by the Constitution are reserved to the states and the people.

Freedom is not free, and we urge everyone to become better informed — and involved.

— *Gary Benoit*

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Whistleblower Details FBI Retaliation

On September 25, former FBI Staff Operations Specialist Marcus Allen told the U.S. House Judiciary Committee's Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government that the FBI retaliated against him for attempting to give the agency a complete picture of what occurred at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

The *New York Post* reported that Allen — a former Marine who served in Iraq — said the FBI "questioned my allegiance to the United States, suspended my security clearance, suspended my pay, and refused to allow me to obtain outside employment or even accept charity" for more than two years. Allen testified that he and his wife had to take "early withdrawals from our retirement accounts to survive" and keep their home, and concluded that the "FBI, with endless resources, was trying to destroy me financially so that I would give up."

Allen's ordeal began on September 29, 2021, when he emailed colleagues at the bureau about confidential FBI informants being present at the January 6 protest. The FBI immediately started a security clearance probe under the rubric of "allegiance to the United States." Because of that email regarding the informants, as well as text messages in which he said the FBI is wrongfully prosecuting protesters, the bureau concluded that Allen might be an "insider threat."

Not until May 31, 2024 — 27 months after his suspension — did the FBI relent and reinstate his top secret clearance.

Allen noted that another FBI whistleblower, Garret O'Boyle, still has not regained his clearance. O'Boyle was falsely accused of leaking material to the media. Instead, as Empower Oversight's Tristan Leavitt wrote to Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), the committee chairman, O'Boyle had disclosed whistleblower-protected information *to Congress*. For that, the FBI vindictively revoked his clearance — the day he began a new assignment after moving across the country.

Allen and O'Boyle are only two of the many FBI employees whose clearances were recalled. In May, a report from the Justice Department's Inspector General revealed that the bureau routinely withdraws security clearance to retaliate against whistleblowers.

YouTube

White House Celebrates Office of Gun Violence Prevention

WhiteHouse.Gov

In September, the White House celebrated the first anniversary of its Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP). It marked the occasion by announcing that it will soon be implementing "new executive actions aimed at further reducing gun violence in America," according to Scripps News on September 22.

Joe Biden's decades-long war against the private ownership of firearms was capped by his 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which he called "the most significant gun safety legislation in nearly 30 years." However, the administration "knew more was needed," so the OGVP was established in 2023.

In its 13-page progress report, the OGVP bragged of the inroads it has made in just one year into the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution — making sure the "gun show loophole" is closed; bribing states to implement red flag laws; stopping the "threat" of ghost guns; declaring gun violence a "public health threat"; bribing states with taxpayer monies to pass laws removing firearms from "domestic abusers"; "helping" state legislators pass more gun-control laws according to the Democratic Party's national agenda; and "mobilizing" artists and other public "influencers" such as hip-hop and entertainment executives, as well as so-called faith leaders, to support the anti-gun agenda.

The OGVP also celebrated that its background-check system "helped block more than 4,600 gun sales to people convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence."

As far as those "new executive actions" go, OGVP Director Stefanie Feldman told Scripps that "administration officials are working to take advantage of the remaining time.… President Biden [and] Vice President Harris have the next four months to do all they can to save lives, and that's exactly what they've asked the office to carry out." Biden said he would be issuing additional, "wholly new" executive orders for the OGVP to follow.

EPA Ordered to Reassess U.S. Water Fluoridation

The Hill reported on September 25 that U.S. District Court Judge Edward Chen has ruled that current fluoride levels in drinking water pose an "unreasonable risk" to people's health and mandated that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) take regulatory action in response.

The ruling challenges positions long held by public health and professional organizations including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Dental Association. U.S. public health officials have promoted water fluoridation as a key strategy for improving dental health since 1962, advising community water systems to add fluoride to drinking water to prevent tooth decay.

However, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has identified a significant link between fluoride exposure and reduced IQ in children, and showed that even fluoride levels as low as 1.5 mg/L could pose health risks. Plus, pregnant women are exposed to fluoride concentrations that exceed the hazard threshold established by scientific research. Citing that research, the judge noted that the "optimal" fluoridation level of 0.7 mg/L in U.S. drinking water is almost twice the safe limit of 0.4 mg/L for pregnant women and their children. The decision highlights other concerns as well, such as regions with naturally high fluoride concentrations in groundwater and fluoride intake from sources such as toothpaste.

Chen concluded that, "In all, there is substantial and scientifically credible evidence establishing that fluoride poses a risk to human health; it is associated with a reduction in the IQ of children and is hazardous at dosages that are far too close to fluoride levels in the drinking water of the United States."

It must be remembered that, in spite of the documented dangers of adding fluoride to water systems, the issue is properly a matter for local authorities — not the EPA.

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Canada Fines Amish for Not Using App They Don't Have

David Arment/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Ontario's Amish community is being fined $300,000 ($222,660 U.S.) for not downloading the Canadian government's Covid app — even though they don't use the smartphones necessary for downloading it.

American Thinker published an article regarding the situation on September 26, drawing from Rebel News, which first broke the story in August. According to Rebel News:

> [The Amish's] simple way of life — without electricity, telephones, or the internet — sets them apart from the rest of the modern world. Yet, this peaceful community is now grappling with a problem no one would have expected: a heavy-handed government bent on enforcing digital compliance.
>
> … The problem began with the Canadian government's enforcement of the ArriveCan app during the COVID-19 pandemic. This app was mandatory for anyone entering Canada, requiring travellers to submit their health information digitally.
>
> The Amish, however, do not use smartphones, let alone apps. They also have religious exemptions from vaccinations, making the use of such technology unnecessary and intrusive for them. Yet, despite these clear exemptions, the government insisted on compliance, leading to severe penalties.
>
> The result? The Amish community in Chatsworth [Ontario] has been slapped with nearly $300,000 in fines for not using the ArriveCan app. This is a community that doesn't use electricity, let alone digital applications.

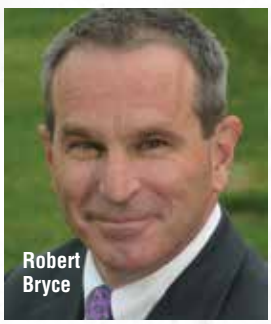
The site continued: "The fines were not just a bureaucratic oversight — they were a targeted action. The government even went so far as to place liens on their properties, effectively freezing their ability to obtain loans and transfer land titles within families. These punitive measures have left the Amish community in a state of shock and despair." ■

QUICK QUOTES

"I told you our favorite, if you can call it that, was President Biden. He's now out of the race, but he asked his supporters to back Ms. Harris, so we'll do the same…. Her laugh is so fascinating. It means that everything is good…. Maybe she'll refrain herself from [sanctions against Russia], or maybe she'll change them."

Russian President **Vladimir Putin** *was interviewed at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok in September by Ilya Doronov, a journalist and managing director of the RBC television channel, who seemed to stifle laughter at his remarks. An incensed John Kirby, the White House national security communications advisor, later told media that Putin "shouldn't be favoring anybody one way or another."*

AP Images



Wikimedia Commons/Aarmlovi

"First, it's the staggering amount of land that this project aims to cover, thirty thousand acres, that's forty-seven square miles. They're going to have to use massive amounts of groundwater — by my calculations, roughly ten gallons of water … to produce one gallon of oil equivalent. The overall energy output will be about nine hundred and eighty barrels of oil equivalent per day, in Texas. To put that … into perspective, an average new oil well in the Permian Basin today is producing thirteen hundred barrels [per day] from a single well."

Author and energy expert **Robert Bryce** *took to social media in September to expose "the stupidity of green hydrogen." In his recent Substack, "Invasion of the Water Snatchers," Bryce details plans of the Ireland-based, foreign-backed company ET Fuels to build the referenced $800 million project in an arid region of west Texas.*

"[Colorado Parks and Wildlife] staff appear to have done what they could to mitigate this situation, but it seems that not everyone was invested in coexistence. The death of a wolf is a terrible tragedy."

Chris Smith, *wildlife program director for advocacy group WildEarth Guardians, issued this statement after the death of an injured adult male wolf that had been captured, treated, and released back into Colorado's Middle Park region, where wolves have been killing dozens of cattle and sheep. Apparently their deaths are not as tragic as that of the predator.*

"This is a landmark arrest for ERO [Enforcement and Removal Operations] Baltimore, in that they secured a record 153 noncitizen sex offenders arrested in their area of operations during a single fiscal year, but more importantly, there are 153 victims who need not fear their predators because of ERO officers."

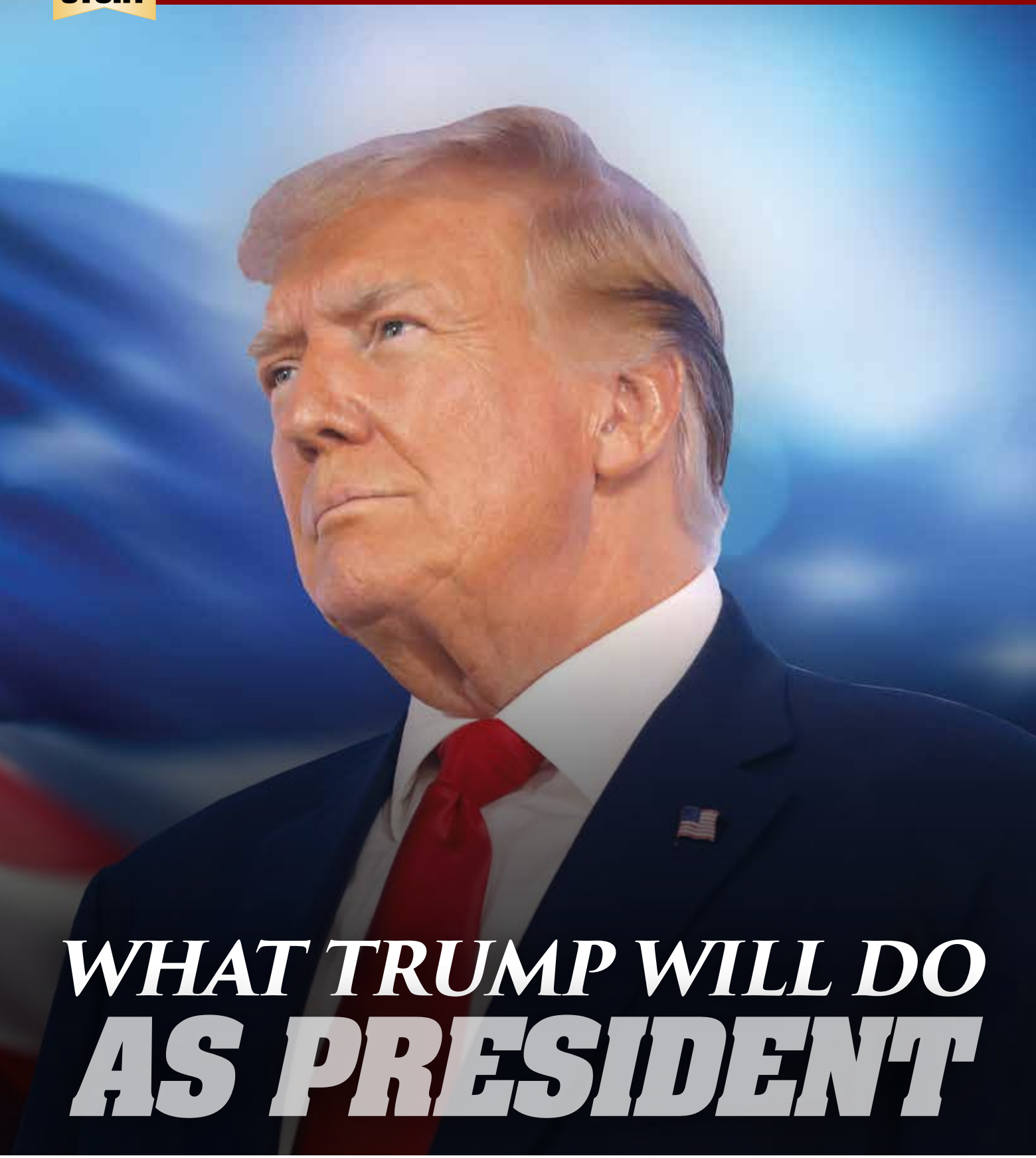
In a statement issued after the arrest of Honduran national Madai Gamaliel Amaya, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer **Daniel Bible** *put a repulsively positive and bitterly ironic spin on the story. Amaya has a 2009 rape conviction in Maryland for which he received a 10-year prison sentence. Instead of serving the time, he bagged a one-way ticket back to Honduras in 2013, courtesy of ERO Baltimore. U.S. Border Patrol arrested him in 2016 in Texas. He got 30 months for illegally crossing the border, but this time ERO Dallas intervened and sent him home. On August 29 this year, ERO Baltimore nabbed him again and has announced plans to "reinstate [the] prior removal order."*

AP Images

"Look what you are doing to this poor creature! Shame on you! You must all go back to your country! I see you have cigarettes here, and you have no money for food? Buy some bread instead of killing a pet!"

An **unidentified woman** *was recorded in July 2020 by commuters at Campiglia Marittima station in the province of Livorno, Italy. She was yelling at a man for cooking a dead cat on the sidewalk. International Business Times reported that the 23-year-old illegal alien from the Ivory Coast was arrested but released after questioning.*

— Compiled by Rebecca Terrell



WHAT TRUMP WILL DO AS PRESIDENT

Trump promises to close the border and tame inflation. What else is he proposing?

by Steve Bonta

AP Images

Out of control: Illegal immigrants wait to be processed near Yuma, Arizona, in 2022. At least 10 million have been ushered into the United States during the Biden-Harris administration.

Because of the sensory overload of sensational news stories surrounding this year's electoral cycle — the lawfare, the assassination attempts, the defenestration of Candidate Biden, the cynical Harris boosterism in the legacy news media — scant attention is being paid to the details of the two candidates' platforms. In the case of Kamala Harris, our ignorance is excusable because, until very recently, her campaign website listed no platform or policy positions. (The latter has changed lately, with every Harris policy mendaciously compared with "Trump's Project 2025 Agenda," despite the fact that the agenda was not put out by either the GOP or the Trump campaign.)

But Trump, the bane of Haitian immigrants and pettifogging prosecutors, is nothing if not an open book. His well-conceived campaign website not only incorporates the totality of the GOP platform (nicknamed "Agenda 47"), but also lays out Trump's "20 Core Promises to Make America Great Again!" for those lacking the fortitude to read the platform in its lavish entirety. Forthwith, then, is a lurid-headline-free overview of what Candidate Donald Trump, courtroom commando and grizzled veteran of the Battle of Wounded Ear, actually proposes to *do* should he be elected to a second term as president.

First, a look at some of the "20 core promises." To no one's surprise, "seal the border and stop the migrant invasion," and "carry out the largest deportation operation in American history," are first and second on the list. Trump's 2016 promise to build a wall and get Mexico to pay for it was probably the issue that propelled him to his first presidential term, and the illegal immigration issue has only gained in prominence — thanks to the calculated bungling of Biden, Harris, et al. — since then. Given the immense societal, legal, financial, and political damage that the Biden wave of 10-20 million illegal immigrants has occasioned, Trump rightly continues to prioritize this issue. Indeed, number 10 on the list contemplates stopping the migrant crime epidemic and "demolishing" the foreign drug cartels. It is difficult to imagine how America can continue to withstand such an unchecked and even invited onslaught of crime and illegal immigration for much longer without suffering irreversible damage to the body politic. But then again, for the inhabitants of America-hating Radical Left-istan, that's precisely the point.

Number three on Trump's list is "end inflation, and make America affordable again." While this is a laudable goal, inflation will remain a fact of life so long as our unconstitutional system of fiat currency, anchored by the Federal Reserve with its illicit writ of absolute monetary authority, is allowed to continue. Only by restoring the gold and silver standard required by our Constitution, and by enacting some long-overdue banking reforms into the bargain, will inflation ever truly be tamed. We are skeptical, however, that Candidate Trump truly understands this, since he, like all of America's wealthy, has been a direct beneficiary of the inflationary monetary system, favoring as it does the elite few with assets parked near the money spigots in money-center banks and hedge funds, while disadvantaging the rest of us.

Promises four and five, to "make America the dominant energy producer in the world, by far!" and "stop outsourcing, and turn the United States into a manufacturing superpower," respectively, are both commendable and long past due. During his first term in office, Trump succeeded in transforming America into an energy-independent nation for the first time in decades — a transformation that was promptly undone by Biden and his League of Extraordinary Incompetents. Less than four years after the first Trump energy transformation, America is once again forced to go hat in hand to the likes of Venezuela and Iran to ensure the global oil spigots upon which we once more depend remain open.

And for all the cant about cracking down on China, the Chinese continue to make most of our stuff, and to convert the profits into gunboats, aircraft, missiles, and nukes which will one day be deployed against us. Meanwhile, Chinese-made fentanyl is still a thing, in case anyone was wondering, made possible by China, Inc., which has been putting American manufacturers out of business for decades.

Trump also wants "large tax cuts for workers, and no tax on tips!" — number six. As with so many GOP bromides, the pledge to cut taxes always rings hollow in the absence of any robust commitment to cut funding for the illegitimate Leviathan state that current levels of taxation sustain. Taxes (which include inflation, by the way) are just the price we pay for government, and until tax cuts are accompanied by meaningful proposals and actions to cut government, these will remain sops to the masses with little long-term effect. And (spoiler alert!) Trump's "20 core promises" contemplate no such sweeping spending cuts.

Steve Bonta is executive senior editor of The New American.

Number seven on the list goes to the heart of the matter, and is the real reason Trump is so viscerally detested by America's illegitimate ruling elites: "Defend our Constitution, our Bill of Rights, and our fundamental freedoms, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the right to keep and bear arms." Make it so, Orange Man.

Number eight proposes to prevent World War III, restore peace in Europe and the Middle East, and build an Iron Dome-style missile defense shield for America. This is also commendable and absolutely within the legitimate constitutional purview of the president as America's diplomat-in-chief and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. This recommendation, alongside number 12, which proposes to rebuild America's military forces, would return us to a posture of peace through strength — a posture that makes eminent sense as long as "strength" is held to be primarily defensive, and does not require the continued forward deployment of U.S. troops to enforce globalist peacekeeping and balance-of-power mandates.

Trump understandably wants to end the weaponization of government against the American people, though how he proposes to do so is left unsaid in item nine.

Some of the items on the second half of the list reflect more bully-pulpit wishful thinking than legitimate executive duties. Items such as number 11 ("rebuild our cities, including Washington, DC, making them safe, clean, and beautiful again"), number 17 ("keep men out of women's sports"), and number 18 ("deport pro-Hamas radicals and make our college campuses safe and patriotic again"), laudable though they are in spirit, all smack of rhetorical overreach. It is not in the constitutional purview of the presidency to be involved in such things, and even if it were, the Democrat-run urban wastelands masquerading as "alabaster cities" are a long-standing national reproach that will only be solved when local and state governments — and their constituencies — decide to repudiate radical-left policymaking.

Item 13, "keep the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency," is problematic on several counts. First, the United States does not have the ultimate say over whether other countries or trading blocs will continue to favor the U.S. dollar. Second, the entire reason for having a "world reserve currency" in the first place is that the entire world has abandoned gold and silver currency standards. There was no such thing as a "world reserve currency" when America, and the rest of the world, used gold and silver as reserves. Under the fiat-currency status quo, of course, the maintenance of dollar supremacy is advantageous to us, at least in the short run, while forcing the rest of the world into monetary vassalage utterly dependent on the inflationary whims of the Fed's and the U.S. Treasury's money mandarins. A better plank would be something like, "maintain the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency, while working to restore a full gold and silver-backed monetary system that would make any such reserve currency obsolete."

Another item with deceptive appeal is number 14, "Fight for and protect Social Security and Medicare with no cuts, including no changes to the retirement age." Reassuring as this might sound for those of us nearing retirement age and eventual decrepitude, the hard fact remains that not only are Social Security and Medicare grotesquely unconstitutional, they are careering inexorably toward insolvency. The U.S. Constitution grants no writ of authority to any branch of the federal government to compel Americans to save for retirement, nor to provide medical benefits for senior citizens. Absent the heavy and forcible exactions of FICA taxation, Americans and their employers would have a lot more money to spend, save, or invest as they see fit — and would be incentivized to be more frugal and more provident in taking personal responsibility for their golden years. Accordingly, both Social Security and Medicare should be judiciously phased out, not kept in place indefinitely.

Items 15 and 16, "Cancel the electric vehicle mandate and cut costly and burdensome regulations" and "Cut federal funding for any school pushing critical race theory, radical gender ideology, and other inappropriate racial, sexual, or political content on our children," respectively, represent current pet peeves of MAGA and the GOP. Both of them would be worthwhile, although item 16 is far too restrictive. In point of fact, *all* federal funding for schools, for whatever reason, is unconstitutional. While cutting off federal funding for schools involved in the most egregious forms of radical-left indoctrination is a praiseworthy ob-

AP Images

Sticker shock: Soaring food prices during the Biden-Harris administration have inflicted great hardship on household budgets.

jective, it is only a very small first step in the long-overdue complete withdrawal of the federal government from the education sector.

Number 19 promises to "Secure our elections, including same day voting, voter identification, paper ballots, and proof of citizenship." Whether such federally imposed standards on elections (for which the Constitutions assigns the states primary, though not exclusive, authority) ultimately pass constitutional muster has yet to be completely worked out. No rational observer can deny the importance of election integrity in a government purporting to belong to the people. Yet the major battles over electoral integrity today — as with so many contests upon which the fate of the Republic may hinge — are being fought more effectively at the state level. The best way to ensure no repeat of the 2020 electoral heist (which nearly everyone at the federal level pooh-poohs in any event) is to litigate these concerns at the state and local level.

This, then, is a distillate of what Trump intends, no doubt sincerely, should he be reelected president. But the devil, as they say, is often in the details, so to the details we now turn. The full 2024 GOP platform is fittingly dedicated to the "forgotten men and women of America," borrowing on William Graham Sumner's timeless phraseology. This is followed by a Thomas Paine-esque preamble entitled "America First: A return to common sense." In the preamble, we are asked to consider how the abandonment of commonsense principles of foreign, domestic, and economic policy by the Biden administration have pushed this country to the breaking point after four years of much-needed Trump reforms:

> In 2016, President Donald J. Trump was elected as an unapologetic Champion of the American People. He reignited the American Spirit and called on us to renew our National Pride. His Policies spurred Historic Economic Growth, Job Creation, and a Resurgence of American Manufacturing. President Trump and the Republican Party led America out of the pessimism induced by decades of failed leadership, showing us that the American People want Greatness for our Country again. Yet after nearly four years of the Biden administration, America is now rocked by Raging Inflation, Open Borders, Rampant Crime, Attacks on our Children, and Global Conflict, Chaos, and Instability.

imaginima/Getty Images Plus

Will drill: Trump has promised to re-open petroleum exploration, extraction, and pipelines.

The evident antidote, besides making capital letters great again, would give Superman pause for thought:

> We will restore our Nation of, by, and for the People. We will Make America Great Again. We will be a Nation based on Truth, Justice, and Common Sense.

But how, concretely, is this to be accomplished? The platform turns first to inflation, noting correctly that "inflation is a crushing tax on American families. History shows that Inflation will not magically disappear while policies remain the same." So far so good, but what would Trump do about it? Halt the Fed's open-market operations? Require the Fed to sell off its vast portfolio of government debt? Or even, wonder of wonders, lay out a program to phase out the Fed altogether and restore sound money? Well, no, the plan proposes none of these things (though they are mentioned, interestingly, in the much-maligned Agenda 2025, which Trump seems so eager to disavow). Instead, the platform proposes utterly irrelevant measures, such as unleashing American energy, cutting burdensome and costly regulations, and stopping illegal immigration, as though these have anything whatsoever to do with inflation — a purely monetary phenomenon, and a deliberately contrived one at that.

In contrast with the vacuous treatment of inflation, the platform's proposals on immigration are well thought out and will likely achieve the intended result, if allowed to take effect. Trump proposes to complete the border wall and bring in state-of-the-art surveillance technology, and also to impose a naval blockade on fentanyl traffickers. In addition to the widely touted "Great Deportation," Trump intends to invoke the Alien Enemies Act to "remove all known or suspected gang members, drug dealers, or cartel members from the United States, ending the scourge of Illegal Alien gang violence once and for all," to reinstate the travel ban, and even — in a throwback to a bygone and more enlightened era — to "use existing Federal Law to keep foreign Christian-hating Communists, Marxists, and Socialists out of America."

Trump's plan is heavy on proposals to improve the economy, or, in typical MAGA hyperbole, to "build the greatest economy in history." These include

cutting regulations, keeping Trump's tax cuts in place, doing away with taxes on tips, pushing for reliable and low-cost energy, and championing innovation, including in cryptocurrencies and in AI development. Trump's recent visit to New York City's only Bitcoin bar underscored his interest in such technology. And his platform explicitly disavows central bank digital currencies. In a new wrinkle, the platform also pledges to industrialize outer space:

> Under Republican Leadership, the United States will create a robust Manufacturing Industry in Near Earth Orbit, send American Astronauts back to the Moon, and onward to Mars, and enhance partnerships with the rapidly expanding Commercial Space sector to revolutionize our ability to access, live in, and develop assets in Space.

As with the problem of inflation, the matter of overall economic growth — even if extended to outer space — is crucially dependent on less and not more federal government interference in the workings of the free market, and that includes in the money and financial markets. America has tried for generations to combine a free-market manufacturing and trade sector with a Marxist monetary and fiscal sector (recall that both a central bank with a monetary monopoly, such as the Federal Reserve system, and a heavy, graduated income tax — the bases for our financial and fiscal systems, respectively — are key planks from Marx's *Communist Manifesto*). The result of this unequal yoking together of capitalism and Marxism has been the slow death of American prosperity and innovation, with manufacturing, savings, and tech slowly having the life squeezed out of them by the constricting coils of communist controls. The American economy bears far more resemblance now to a Marxist planned economy than to the free-market capitalism that once propelled it to greatness. Trump appears to recognize this in principle, but in refusing to address the monetary and fiscal roots of the problem, his prescriptions will prove at best temporary palliatives that will be reversed the moment the radical Left regains power.

Chapter Four of his platform ("Bring Back the American Dream and Make It Affordable Again") only serves to italicize Trump's unfortunate ambivalence on the proper role of government. Under the heading of "Affordable Healthcare," the platform promises:

> Republicans will increase Transparency, promote Choice and Competition, and expand access to new Affordable Healthcare and prescription drug options. We will protect Medicare, and ensure Seniors receive the care they need without being burdened by excessive costs.

In other words: Our failed healthcare system, a casualty of decades of government interference dating to President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society program, needs yet more government tinkering and fine tuning, rather than privatization. This, amid encouraging promises to slash inflation and government regulation, is a discordant note in an otherwise reassuring symphony of free-market psalms.

Although so-called protectionism is often criticized by free-market purists, robust tariffs and other restraints on international trade have long been one of Trump's priorities. For all of our own pro-free-market predilections, we find the Trumpian case for commonsense restraints on international trade compelling. For one thing, unconditional free trade with hostile powers bent on our own destruction — Communist China is exhibit A, of course — is irrational through and through. This is a seemingly self-evident fact that Trump was the first president to acknowledge, with his usual dogged indifference to stale-dated received wisdom about free trade bringing about the demise of communist despots. That clearly hasn't happened; instead, America's apparent indifference to China's military buildup and constant efforts to subvert and otherwise diminish the United States has led to the appearance of a new and potentially deadly anti-superpower, one whose malign intentions only became evident to naïve American leadership as a result of the Covid pandemic.

With the pandemic and its devastating political and economic fallout one of the most tragic and egregious I-told-you-so's in modern history, Trump's China and trade policies quickly became the new normal. Now Trump intends to tighten the noose further on China, with his new platform vowing to "revoke China's Most Favored Nation status, phase out imports of essential goods, and stop China from buying American Real Estate and Industries."

AP Images

Trans insanity: Candidate Trump has promised to put a stop to forcing schools to allow males to use female bathrooms and locker rooms.

AP Images

Vulnerabilities unmasked: During the Covid pandemic, the United States was at the mercy of Chinese manufacturers of masks and other medical supplies. Trump promises to return manufacturing, including of medical supplies, to the United States.

And lest any of this seems a bridge too far for free-trade absolutists, bear in mind that Americans (and other foreigners) are barred from buying Chinese real estate, securities, and industries, or from owning any assets in China. Likewise, American social media, news, and virtually all other online concerns are completely blocked from operating in China — even as the Chinese scream self-righteously about freedom of speech every time there is a threat to correspondingly ban Chinese social media from access to lucrative American markets. The asymmetry in trade and profit-making opportunities between China and the United States is enormous, and it is well past time that our political leadership did something about it.

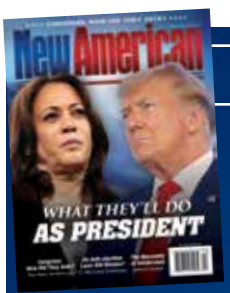
Moreover, the Trump/GOP platform supports restoring manufacturing and critical supply chains to American shores. The urgency of this was underscored not only by our ludicrous dependence on Chinese manufacturers for medical supplies during the pandemic, but also by our increasing vulnerability to an array of determined and well-armed new enemies, from China and North Korea to a recrudescent Russian power, rising up to fill the adversarial vacuum left by the former Soviet Union.

Chapter Six, dedicated to the protection of seniors, assures us that Trump will do everything he can to protect — and perpetuate — both Social Security and Medicare. Rightly decrying politicians who use Social Security funds for their "pet projects" and who want to make tens of millions of illegals eligible for Medicare benefits, the platform fails to address the core problem, which is: Given the perverse incentives to overspend and under-deliver inherent in these and any other unconstitutional social-welfare programs, what commonsense measures should be taken to wind down Social Security and Medicare over a reasonable interval, and restore the saner workings of the free marketplace both to medical care and to long-term investment and savings?

A similar problem is posed by federal interference in education. The Department of Education and federal subsidies of education at every level have come to be generally accepted, yet both are unconstitutional and corrosive to actual education in every detail. It is not "the radical Left" taking over our educational system that has brought about this state of affairs; it is the fact that centralized, government-sponsored education unavoidably incentivizes such in half-baked indoctrination campaigns that has led us to such a pass. The Trump campaign appears to understand this, since the final item in Chapter Seven, which deals with the education crisis, proposes to return education to the states and to close the Department of Education. To be sure, we've heard promises like this from previous Republican administrations, but perhaps this time something will come of it.

The remaining three chapters in the platform deal mostly in generalities promising to "bring common sense to government," "renew the pillars of American civilization," deliver government "of, by, and for the people," and "return to peace through strength." Under these headings, we note a few vague but undeniably praiseworthy aims that stand in stark contrast to the avowed goals of the radical Left-driven Democratic agenda: overcome the crisis in liberal arts education, take care of our veterans, rebuild our cities and restore law and order, stop woke and weaponized government, defend religious liberty, end left-wing gender insanity, modernize the military, and defend America's borders.

Needless to say, much of this ambitious program will likely go unrealized, given the inevitable ferocity with which the Democrats and their well-programmed mobs will rise up in violent opposition should Trump be reelected. Unlike the often-feckless Republican leadership, the Democrats will unite unwavering under the pretended banners of anti-fascism and wage partisan warfare, by both fair means and foul, to prevent any part of the Trump agenda from coming to fruition. They recognize, correctly, that the Trump platform is a declaration of war against all of their long-held conceits, and we anticipate they will go to any lengths — as the lawfare and assassination attempts richly attest — to hold on to their ill-gotten political gains. And while the Trump program has its flaws, it is a sincere attempt to restore some semblance of sanity and limited government to American politics at this critical juncture. That, in balance, is a good thing. ■



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WHAT KAMALA WILL DO AS PRESIDENT

Kamala Harris would end free speech, grant amnesty to illegal aliens, and impose communist policies under the guise of "equity."

by R. Cort Kirkwood

The one thing we can say about Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris, who hopes to defeat former President Donald Trump on November 5, is that she comes by her crackpot, far-left views honestly.

Her father was a Jamaican Marxist economics professor. Her mother was an Indian cancer researcher. Harris spent her formative years, including high school, in Canada.

Her kooky, far-left ideological agenda is so far left that it picked up a name on social media: Kamunism. And, to her credit, she's honest about it. Never has she tried to hide her true self. Never has she tried to come off as anything but what she has always said she is.

Harris on Equity

Just after Ruling Class Democrats forced President Joe Biden out of the race and replaced him with Harris, a mashup of Harris exhorting her gospel of "equity," along

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with other far-out remarks, went viral on social media.

She has repeatedly and baldly stated that she favors the forced redistribution of wealth. But, of course, she doesn't call it that.

Rather than fighting for *equality*, Harris believes, Americans must fight for what she calls "equity" because "not everyone starts out at the same place." True enough, but Harris wants to ensure that everyone ends up in the same place. And in exactly those words.

"Equality suggests, 'oh everyone should get the same amount,'" she said in a campaign ad when she ran for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020:

> The problem with that, not everybody's starting out from the same place. So if we're all getting the same amount, but you started out back there and I started out over here, we could get the same amount, but you're still going to be that far back behind me. It's about giving people the resources and the support they need, so that everyone can be on equal footing, and then compete on equal footing. *Equitable treatment means we all end up in the same place.* [Emphasis added.]

And, as she said on another occasion, the Biden administration is "guided by this principle of what we must do in the spirit and in the interest of equity … to put equity firmly at the center of our economic policy." What she is advocating was famously described by Karl Marx this way: "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs."

No wonder Trump and X commentators called Harris a communist.

Forgetting Harris' emitting geysers of droll gibberish such as "to see what can be, unburdened by what has been," a cultish mantra she has repeated with the regularity of Old Faithful, Americans have no reason to believe that Harris doesn't mean what she says.

She wants to redistribute wealth. The word for that is communism. Or Kamunism, as the case may be.

Other Totalitarian Economic Plans

But her wanting to use confiscatory taxes to take one hard-working American's money and give it to another — a form of legalized theft — is just one reason to be frightened, very frightened, of a Harris presidency.

Another of her far-left ideas is imposing price controls to stop "price gouging." Her plan is so radical that Democrats on Capitol Hill ran from it faster than Jesse Owens sprinted the 100-yard dash in the 1936 Olympics. Congress, they said, would never pass it.

Plagiarized from equally radical Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, the plan is so redolent of Marxist kookery that even *The Washington Post's* Catherine Rampell smacked it down. Harris announced the plan in a campaign memorandum.

"Her campaign said the first 100 days of her presidency would include the 'first-ever federal ban on price gouging on food and groceries — setting clear rules of the road to make clear that big corporations can't unfairly exploit consumers to run up excessive corporate profits on food and groceries,'" Rampell explained:

> What are these "clear rules of the road" or the thresholds that determine when a price or profit level becomes "excessive"? The memo doesn't say, and the campaign did not answer questions I sent seeking clarification.

Harris would also use the Federal Trade Commission and other bureaucracies to crack down on "excessive prices" and "excessive corporate profits," as Rampell put it.

As the headline over Rampell's column quipped, "when your opponent calls you 'communist,' maybe don't propose price controls?"

Add to price controls Harris' advocacy of the "Green New Deal," which includes, curiously enough, an "Economic Bill of Rights — the right to single-payer healthcare, a guaranteed job at a living wage, affordable housing, and free college education."

"I support a Green New Deal and I will tell you why," Harris said during the 2020 presidential campaign:

> Climate change is an existential threat and we have got to deal with the reality of it. We have got to deal with the reality of the fact that there are people trying to peddle some ideas that we should deny it. They are peddling science fiction instead of what we should do, which is rely on science fact.

Kamunism: Kamala Harris favors "equity," meaning the redistribution of wealth. "Not everybody's starting out from the same place," and so "equitable treatment means we all end up in the same place," she says. Her ideas on "equity" have a name: Kamunism.

AP Images

Relying on "science fact" isn't a strong suit for a member of the party that believes boys can be girls and girls can be boys if they are "trans," but in any event Harris also wants Americans to get Canadian-style socialist healthcare. In supporting Vermont socialist Senator Bernie Sanders' Medicare for All plan, Harris told CNN's Jake Tapper in 2019 that she would end private health insurance because it's time to "move on."

"The idea is that everyone gets access to medical care," she told Tapper:

> And you don't have to go through the process of going through an insurance company, having them give you approval, going through the paperwork, all of the delay that may require. Who of us has not had that situation where you've got to wait for approval and the doctor says, well I don't know if your insurance company is gonna cover this? Let's eliminate all of that. Let's move on.

As one commentator quipped, "Dems in 2009: If you like your plan, you can keep it. Dems in 2019: If you like your plan, we're eliminating it." Harris has, supposedly, reversed her position on health insurance.

Free Speech and Guns

Harris is no better on free speech.

Just before she became vice president after the 2020 election, she said Donald Trump must lose his "privileges" to post on Twitter, now X, because his tweets supposedly incited violence. It was a false media narrative, but Harris jumped at the chance to say some animals are more equal than others — and have more rights.

"We're talking about a private corporation, Twitter, that has terms of use," she told far-left Tapper:

> And as far as I'm concerned, and I think most people would say, including members of Congress who he has threatened, that he has lost his privileges and it should be taken down.… There has to be a responsibility that is placed on these social media sites to understand their power.

Granted, using a privately owned website might indeed be a privilege. But note that she also said that the sites themselves bear responsibility for what users say.

AP Images

Big Sister is watching: In 2007, Harris vowed to break in to the homes of law-abiding gun owners to "check to see if you're being responsible and safe in the way you conduct your affairs."

Speaking of Brazil's recent decision to shut down X because it wouldn't censor users, honest liberal law Professor Jonathan Turley explained that under Harris, America would head in the same direction.

"If Brazil can succeed in banning Twitter from the entire country, it will be replicated because many hold the view of what you just heard from Vice President Harris" on CNN, he said. "They view speech as a privilege," as a "driver's license … that can be rescinded if you're reckless. And this is the ultimate destination for this movement, where if they can't convince people to give up their own freedoms to embrace censorship, they're going to start to take sites offline to prevent people from hearing opposing views."

Another Democrat who would silence X's Elon Musk and anyone else he doesn't like: former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, who explained at length in the far-left *Guardian* that Musk should even face jail time. At the urging of radicals such as Reich, Harris would eventually create a list of those to be censored — and possibly jailed if Hillary Clinton gets her way. The failed 2016 presidential candidate recently told Rachel Maddow that those who spread "propaganda" should land in prison.

And Harris wouldn't stop at Trump. Evidence for that prediction: her apparent approval of putting former Democratic U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard under federal surveillance as a possible terrorist after Gabbard criticized Harris on Laura Ingraham's television show.

Sonya LaBosco, executive director of the Air Marshal National Council, told UncoverDC that Gabbard was unaware that she was under constant surveillance when she traveled. And "surveillance" might be understating it. Gabbard "has two Explosive Detection Canine Teams, one Transportation Security Specialist (explosives), one plainclothes TSA Supervisor, and three Federal Air Marshals on every flight she boards," the website reported.

Guns will be another of Harris' targets.

"The problem is that Congress does not have the courage to act" on guns, presidential candidate Harris said in 2019. "My agenda includes attempting to get Congress to act but if they don't within the first 100 days of my administration, I'm gonna take executive action. Because what we need is action."

If federal courts do not, the U.S. Supreme Court will almost certainly strike down such a measure as unconstitutional. But that won't stop Harris from trying it.

Harris favors mandatory gun buybacks, which would, of course, end with forcible confiscation at the point of a policeman's gun.

In 2007, when serving as San Francisco's district attorney, Harris uttered this frightening threat while speaking about legislation to punish gun owners who don't store their guns properly:

> Just because you legally possess a gun in the sanctity of your locked home doesn't mean that we're not going to walk into that home and check to see if you're being responsible and safe in the way you conduct your affairs.

Immigration

Among Harris' most radical and openly anti-American positions are those on immigration, particularly illegal aliens and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In 2020, during a hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee, then-Senator Harris compared ICE to the Ku Klux Klan and tried to badger a witness into agreeing that illegal aliens were right to fear the agency.

Harris asked acting ICE chief Ron Vitiello, "Are you aware of the perception of many about how the power and the discretion at ICE is being used to enforce the laws and do you see any parallels" between ICE and the KKK?

Hectoring Vitiello like Dame Van Winkle, Harris repeatedly asked him about immigrants' "perception" of ICE.

"That puts ICE in the same category as the KKK," Vitiello replied. "Is that what you're asking me?"

"No, I'm very specific in what I'm asking you," Harris said. "Are you aware of a perception…"

That back-and-forth continued, with Vitiello saying he did not "see a parallel" between the KKK "and the authority that ICE has to do its job and the agents and officers who do it professionally and excellently with lots of compassion."

"Sir, how can you be the head of an agency," Harris asked, "and be unaware of how your agency is perceived by certain communities?"

But that hearing was no surprise to anyone who knows Harris' views on illegal aliens; i.e., there is no such thing. "Being an undocumented immigrant is not a crime," she once said. "I know what a crime looks like," she said as well, and "an undocumented immigrant is not a criminal."

In fact, they are criminals, as federal law clearly states. But anyway, in 2019, she answered a presidential candidate questionnaire from the communist-founded American Civil Liberties Union.

Harris told the far-left group that she would "prioritize" citizenship for what was then thought to be 11 million illegal aliens. Illegals here under President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals would get work permits and stay in the country for good.

"I will also make sure that parents of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents, as well as other law-abiding immigrants with ties to our communities, are able to apply for deferred action to protect them from the prospect of deportation," she said.

Harris vowed to end ICE's use of detainers, which ask state and local authorities to hold illegal-alien criminals in custody for transfer to ICE. She promised to end the detention of illegal aliens, and bragged that she pushed for a budget cut for ICE.

Harris is so committed to illegals she even promised "transition" surgery for "trans" illegal aliens in addition to "trans" federal prison inmates.

As attorney general of California, Harris was behind allowing illegal aliens to practice law.

As for what she might do on immigration if and when she becomes president, recall that as Biden's "border czar" she did nothing to stop the illegal-alien invasion that her boss invited. She has supported his illegal policies of releasing and/or paroling illegals at the border, and even directly flying "migrants" into the country.

On that subject, Biden and Harris have flown 530,000 "migrants" into the country and released them, never to be deported, U.S. Customs and Border Protection data show.

Recently a video resurfaced showing Harris chanting at a 2018 Los Angeles parade: "Up, up with education," Harris and the mob chanted. "Down, down with deportation."

Americans have no reason to believe that will not continue.

AP Images

Importing voters: Harris has repeatedly said she does not believe crossing the border illegally is a crime. She told the ACLU in 2019 that she planned to legalize the then-11 million illegal aliens.

Abortion Extremist

As for the social issues, Harris is an abortion extremist. In 2019 and 2020, she voted against a bill that required medical care for infants born after a failed abortion. As a practical matter, she voted for infanticide. In 2020, she voted against a bill that would ban abortion after an unborn child is capable of feeling pain.

Harris voted against the confirmation of Catholic U.S. Supreme Court associate justices Amy Coney Barrett and Brett Kavanaugh, and with respect to the latter, enthusiastically participated in a bald-faced lie about him.

The genesis of the lie was Kavanaugh's answer to a question from Senator Ted Cruz, the Texas Republican. Cruz asked

AP Images

Extreme: Harris is an abortion extremist who voted against a bill to require medical treatment for infants who survive an abortion. As a practical matter, she voted for infanticide.

about the then-federal judge's dissent in *Priests for Life v. United States Department of Health and Human Services* during Kavanaugh's confirmation hearings for the U.S. Supreme Court. Answered Kavanaugh:

> [Priests for Life] was being forced to provide a certain kind of health coverage over their religious objection to their employees, and under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the question was: First, was this a substantial burden on the religious exercise? And it seemed to me quite clearly it was. It was a technical matter of filling out a form, in that case. They said filling out the form would make them complicit in the provision of the abortion-inducing drugs that they, as a religious matter, objected to.

The pro-abortion Left collapsed in a conniption.

The National Abortion Rights Action League, which changed its honest name to the anodyne and misleading Reproductive Freedom for All, tweeted this lie:

> Kavanaugh just referred to birth control as "abortion-inducing drugs," which is not only an anti-science lie, it's an anti-choice extremist phrase that shows that our right to access both abortion and contraception would be in SERIOUS danger if he is confirmed.

And Planned Parenthood offered this: "#Kavanaugh just called birth control 'abortion-inducing drugs.'"

Kavanaugh did no such thing, of course. And Harris, as a former attorney general, would know that. Still, she mounted to ride with the torch-bearing fanatics. She tweeted a doctored video of Kavanaugh's answer, cutting out the words "they said" to innacurately portray the judge's words.

Then she added this ridiculous comment:

> Kavanaugh chooses his words very carefully, and this is a dog whistle for going after birth control. He was nominated for the purpose of taking away a woman's constitutionally protected right to make her own health care decisions. Make no mistake — this is about punishing women.

Tacitly acknowledging the deceit, Harris provided the full video a day later. Yet, preposterously, she stuck to her guns because Kavanaugh "uncritically used the term 'abortion-inducing drugs.'"

No, *Kavanaugh quoted a litigant before his court*. The prevarication earned Four Pinocchios from *The Washington Post's* fact checker, Glenn Kessler.

Not All That Smart

Aside from all that, when Harris speaks, much of what she says is nonsense that critics calls "word salad," a sign that she does not understand easy issues or even widely-used modern technology.

During Oprah Winfrey's Unite for America event — essentially a Harris campaign rally that featured the usual celebrities — Harris twice delivered her word salad. Example:

> We are an optimistic people. Americans, by character, are people who have dreams and ambitions and aspirations. We believe in what is possible. We believe in what can be, and we believe in fighting for that. That's how we came into being because the people before us understood that one of the greatest expressions for the love of our country — one of the greatest expressions of patriotism — is to fight for the ideals of who we are.

A young couple asked Harris what her plan is to lower the cost of living. She delivered this gobbledygook:

> Yours is a story I hear around the country as a travel. And in terms of both rightly having the right to have aspirations and dreams and ambitions for your family and working hard and finding that the American dream is for this generation, and so many recently, far more elusive than it's been. And we need to deal with that.

Likely because she does not understand inflation, Harris offered a few scattershot ideas about tax credits and deductions that would not lower the cost of consumer goods.

Inflation, Harris once told a reporter, is "about having to stress and stretch limited resources.... When you see these prices go up, it has a direct impact on the quality of life." In fact, inflation is "about" devaluing the currency, printing money and pumping it into the economy, or "loaning new money into existence," as Investopedia explains.

Harris also believes that cloud storage of computer data means that the data hovers in a cloud over one's head.

That is, as they say, bad optics for a presidential candidate. ■

Are Anti-abortion Laws Killing Women?

The mainstream media collaborates with Democrats and abortion activists to manipulate voters. They are using a tragic death to disseminate a false and dangerous narrative.

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by D. Michael DeRidder

Abortion is one of the key issues the Democratic Party is aggressively pushing before the 2024 presidential election. Democrats claim Republicans will pass a federal abortion ban if they win in November. This claim has been amplified by the mainstream media, despite former President Donald Trump maintaining that the issue should be determined by the states following the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. In addition to fearmongering about a federal abortion ban, Democrats are now claiming women are dying as a result of abortion restrictions in certain states.

Are anti-abortion laws really killing women who seek abortions? Ask yourself this question before examining the Democratic Party narrative around the case of Georgia resident Amber Nicole Thurman, a woman who tragically died following a medical emergency caused by the dangerous abortion drug mifepristone.

D. Michael DeRidder is a staff writer for The New American.

Democratic Party Narrative

On August 13, 2022, Thurman was provided a two-pill abortion regimen — mifepristone and misoprostol — by an abortion clinic in North Carolina. She was pregnant with twins, and her body did not properly expel the fetal remains. She developed a severe infection. On August 18, she vomited blood and passed out at her home. She was transported by ambulance to Piedmont Henry Hospital in Stockbridge, Georgia, where physicians waited 20 hours to perform a dilation and curettage operation, supposedly due to uncertainty over Georgia's abortion law, HB 481, also known as the LIFE Act. Thurman subsequently died of sepsis.

Vice President Kamala Harris spoke with Thurman's family at a campaign rally featuring Oprah Winfrey. During the rally, Harris discussed how Thurman died, claiming healthcare providers face prosecution for providing abortions and emergency medical treatment:

> So just a step back in terms of how we got here. The former president chose three members of the United States Supreme Court with the intention that they would overdo [sic] the protections of *Roe v. Wade*. And they did as he intended. And in state after state, including yours, these abortion bans have been passed that criminalize health care providers. In a couple of states, prison for life, Oprah. Prison for life in a couple of states for a doctor or nurse who provides health care.

In a response to a request for comment on how Georgia state law allegedly resulted in Thurman's death, Democratic Georgia state Representative Dar'shun Kendrick told *The New American* that HB 481 is not clearly written for physicians:

> HB 481 (2018 GA law that restricted abortion care to 6 weeks) is not only draconian but the language of the law is ambiguous, making it impossible for the courts to correctly interpret the law and physicians and physician staff to provide life saving care to mothers in a "medical emergency." Because the authors of HB 481 lacked the empathy and understanding to introduce and pass a CLEAR law, we are left with women dying in Georgia — and — surprise surprise — these are women of color.

In a response to a follow-up question asking if Georgia Democrats planned on introducing legislation that would address the claims that HB 481 prevents emergency medical care and clarify the legality of

physicians treating complications following an abortion acquired outside the state of Georgia, Kendrick told *TNA*, "We want it repealed in its entirety. Democrats are not interested in clarifying a law that kills women."

Response to "Demagoguery"

During campaign events, Harris has repeated allegations that state laws are preventing physicians from providing emergency medical treatment for life-threatening complications. Senator Steve Daines (R-Mont.) responded to Harris' remarks by emphasizing that Georgia state law did not cause the death of Amber Nicole Thurman:

> Let me be very clear, crystal clear: Vice President Harris and the Left are engaged in a very dangerous game of demagoguery. They are blaming the deaths of [Thurman and another woman, Candi Miller] on Georgia law. That is a lie. In the cases from Georgia last week, both women experienced the same complication from chemical abortion, where the medication failed to expel all the remains of their unborn children. This is a life-threatening risk that women are not made aware of when they access this medication without guidance from medical professionals.

Georgia state Representative Charlice Byrd, a Republican, told *The New American* in an email:

> This is a tragedy and will continue to cause death until the legislature has the stomach to stop it. Starting with the heartbeat bill from 2019, [Georgia law] exempts instances of a medical emergency from the abortion ban.... In 2022, there was an attempt to ban the abortion pill or even simply require an in-person doctors visit first. This did not pass, however. So the abortion pill is legal. If the abortion pill had been illegal, the woman who died would have not been given this deadly drug and would be alive today.

Georgia Right to Life also responded to the false narratives around this story, responding to claims that HB 481 is difficult for physicians to interpret and debunking the claim that the bill outlaws the dilation and curettage procedure (D&C):

> False Claim: Georgia's Life Act outlaws the D&C procedure in its entirety.
>
> Truth: The Life Act outlaws the "act of using, prescribing, or administering any instrument, substance, device, or other means with the purpose to terminate a pregnancy with knowledge that termination will, with reasonable likelihood, cause the death of an unborn child." Amber Thurman entered the emergency room with deceased twin babies. A D&C procedure would not have caused the death of the pre-born twins, as they were already deceased. The Life Act only prohibits a D&C if it is used to take the life of a pre-born baby after a detectable heartbeat.
>
> False Claim: The Life Act may not outlaw a D&C entirely but creates a confused environment where doctors are hesitant to perform certain procedures....
>
> Truth: The Life Act is clear on what is legal and illegal. The text of the law is crystal clear and had existed at the time for over three years.

Black Box Warning

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) adds a "black box" warning to abortion pills mifepristone and misoprostol, stating that serious or life-threatening side effects might occur when a pregnancy is ended with those drugs. According to Georgia Right to Life:

> Since the FDA approved these pills in 2000, there have been 32 confirmed deaths reported back to the FDA. Amber Thurman ingested both pills, resulting in the deaths of her twin babies, but suffered severe complications because the deceased bodies of her twin babies did not fully expel from her body.

With the presidential election just weeks away, it is important to identify partisan narratives designed to distort the truth and manipulate how you vote. Clearly, Amber Thurman died from complications resulting from a dangerous chemical abortion procedure. Georgia's HB 481 did not prevent physicians from saving her life. The fact that physicians hesitated to act should be blamed not on the law, but on their own negligence or lack of understanding of the law. However, Democrats are exploiting Thurman's death as a tool to push a federal law protecting unfettered access to abortion. ■

AP Images

118th CONGRESS
How Did They Vote?

Elections are being held this year for all 435 House seats and 34 Senate seats. Do you know how your U.S. representative and senators voted on key issues? Use this congressional scorecard to find out.

SrdjanPav/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Mandating the jab: Vaccine mandates are unconstitutional and antithetical to limited government. The House took a stand for medical freedom by voting to end an HHS-imposed Covid vaccine mandate.

House Vote Descriptions

1 Forced Vaccinations

H.R. 497, the "Freedom for Health Care Workers Act," would eliminate the Health and Human Services (HHS) Covid-19 vaccine mandate on healthcare providers furnishing items and services in Medicare- and Medicaid-certified facilities. It would also prohibit HHS from publishing any substantially similar rule.

The House passed H.R. 497 on January 31, 2023 by a vote of 227 to 203 (Roll Call 98). We have assigned pluses

How to Use This Scorecard

When examining our legislators' records, it is essential that we look past their rhetoric and focus on their records. This is why we published the following review of 10 key congressional votes for each chamber in the current (118th) Congress, which convened in January 2023. To learn how any representative or senator voted on the measures described herein, look him or her up in the vote charts.

The scores are derived by dividing a congressman's constitutional votes (pluses) by the total number he cast (pluses and minuses) and multiplying by 100. The average House score for this scorecard is 33 percent (65 percent for the Republicans and one percent for the Democrats), and the average Senate score is 36 percent (73 percent for the Republicans and one percent for the Democrats). Fourteen representatives and 11 senators earned 100 percent. We encourage readers to examine how their own legislators voted on each of the 10 key measures. We also encourage readers to commend legislators for their constitutional votes, and to urge improvement where needed.

This scorecard was created using votes featured in *The New American's* Freedom Index, which is published twice a year, and rates members of Congress based on their adherence to constitutional principles of limited government, fiscal responsibility, national sovereignty, and a traditional foreign policy of avoiding foreign entanglements. An online version of the Freedom Index is also available (click on "Freedom Index" at TheNewAmerican.com), as are Congressional Scorecards for individual members of the House and Senate and Legislative Scorecards for state legislators (see ad on page 34). ■

House Vote Scores ✓

	Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ALABAMA												
1	Carl (R)	80%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
2	Moore (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
3	Rogers (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+
4	Aderholt (R)	67%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	?	+
5	Strong (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+
6	Palmer (R)	67%	+	?	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+
7	Sewell (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ALASKA												
AL	Peltola (D)	13%	-	-	-	-	?	?	-	-	-	+
ARIZONA												
1	Schweikert (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+
2	Crane (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
3	Gallego (D)	0%	-	?	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Stanton (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Biggs (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
6	Ciscomani (R)	44%	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	?	+
7	Grijalva (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	?	?
8	Lesko (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
9	Gosar (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
ARKANSAS												
1	Crawford (R)	56%	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	?	+
2	Hill (R)	40%	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
3	Womack (R)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
4	Westerman (R)	40%	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
CALIFORNIA												
1	LaMalfa (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+
2	Huffman (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Kiley (R)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
4	Thompson (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	McClintock (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
6	Bera (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Matsui (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Garamendi (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Harder (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	DeSaulnier (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Pelosi (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Lee (D)	0%	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Duarte (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+
14	Swalwell (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Mullin (D)	0%	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Eshoo (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Khanna (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Lofgren (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	Panetta (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Fong (R)											
21	Costa (D)	0%	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Valadao (R)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
23	Obernolte (R)	50%	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
24	Carbajal (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	Ruiz (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Brownley (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	Garcia (R)	44%	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	?	+
28	Chu (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Cárdenas (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Schiff (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Napolitano (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Sherman (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33	Aguilar (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	Gomez (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	Torres (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36	Lieu (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
37	Kamlager-Dove (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
38	Sánchez (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
39	Takano (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	Kim (R)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
41	Calvert (R)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
42	Garcia (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
43	Waters (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
44	Barragán (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	Steel (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
46	Correa (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
47	Porter (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-
48	Issa (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+
49	Levin (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	Peters (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51	Jacobs (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
52	Vargas (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COLORADO												
1	DeGette (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Neguse (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Boebert (R)	89%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	?
4	Lopez (R)											
5	Lamborn (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+
6	Crow (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Pettersen (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Caraveo (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONNECTICUT												
1	Larson (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Courtney (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	DeLauro (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Himes (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Hayes (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DELAWARE												
AL	Blunt Rochester (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FLORIDA												
1	Gaetz (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
2	Dunn (R)	40%	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
3	Cammack (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
4	Bean (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
5	Rutherford (R)	40%	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
6	Waltz (R)	78%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	?	+
7	Mills (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
8	Posey (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
9	Soto (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Frost (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Webster (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
12	Bilirakis (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
13	Luna (R)	88%	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	+	-	+
14	Castor (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Lee (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+
16	Buchanan (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+
17	Steube (R)	89%	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
18	Franklin (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a representative did not vote. If a representative cast fewer than five votes in this scorecard, a rating is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 24, 26, and 28.

to the yeas because an executive branch agency, such as HHS, has no lawmaking power according to Article I, Section 1 of the Constitution, and therefore cannot impose vaccine mandates via executive decree. Even with an act of Congress, Covid-19 vaccine mandates would still be unconstitutional due to the lack of constitutional authority for Congress to pass a law mandating what you must put into your body.

2 Terminating Department of Education

During consideration of an education-policy bill (H.R. 5), Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) offered an amendment to express the sense of Congress that the authority of the Department of Education "to operate or administer any office or program related to elementary or secondary education should be terminated on or before December 31, 2023."

The House rejected Massie's amendment on March 24, 2023 by a vote of 161 to 265 (Roll Call 156). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because education is not the role of government, let alone among the limited and specified powers enumerated for Congress in Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. A child's education is the responsibility of, as well as a fundamental right of choice retained by, his or her parents. Forcing American citizens to furnish taxpayer money for a compulsory, failing, and government-run K-12 school system violates their individual liberties.

3 Federal Air-pollutants Law

During consideration of an energy and permitting package (H.R. 1), Representative Scott Perry (R-Pa.) offered an amendment to repeal Section 115 of the Clean Air Act, which allows the Environmental Protection Agency to impose emissions-reduction requirements on state governors if an "international agency" or the Department of State determines that "pollutants" emitted in the United States "endanger public health or welfare in a foreign country."

The House rejected Perry's amendment on March 29, 2023 by a vote of 96 to 336 (Roll Call 173). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because Section 115 of the Clean Air Act has for decades served to disguise the federal government's unconstitutional seizure of control over the domestic energy sector — a plan designed to not only erode state sovereignty, but implement United Nations-led global "climate change" policy. The 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution clearly reserves any such regulatory powers to the "States respectively, or to the people," as opposed to unelected, unaccountable foreign bureaucrats.

4 DEI Funding

During consideration of a bill to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (H.R. 3935), Representative Mary Miller (R-Ill.) offered an amendment to prevent funds in the bill from being used to hire diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) officials or conduct DEI training.

The House rejected Miller's amendment on July 19, 2023 by a vote of 181 to 254 (Roll Call 353). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because nowhere in the Constitution is Congress authorized to allocate federal funding for DEI initiatives. Moreover, DEI is part of the broader Marxist-inspired "Black Lives Matter" agenda and has its roots in Marxist "Critical Theory." The federal government has no business promoting this extremist, anti-American agenda — including in aviation.

5 Electronic Identification Ear Tag Mandate

During consideration of the fiscal 2024 agriculture appropriations bill (H.R. 4368), Representative Harriet Hageman (R-Wy.) offered an amendment to prevent funds from being used to mandate electronic identification ear tags for cattle and bison.

The House rejected Hageman's amendment on September 27, 2023 by a vote of 97 to 336 (Roll Call 419). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the federal government has no authority under the Constitution to regulate agriculture. Furthermore, Hageman's amendment would push back against the United Nations' Agenda 2030, which is inherently contrary to the Constitution. Congress should eliminate all federal involvement in agriculture.

6 Migration and Refugee Assistance

During consideration of the fiscal 2024 state-foreign operations appropriations

AP Images

Environmental tyranny vs. state sovereignty: Under Section 115 of the federal Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency can unilaterally impose draconian emissions-reduction mandates on states. The House rejected an amendment to repeal this unconstitutional provision.

	Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19	Donalds (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+
20	Cherfilus-McCormick (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
21	Mast (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
22	Frankel (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
23	Moskowitz (D)	0%	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Wilson (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-
25	Wasserman Schultz (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Diaz-Balart (R)	44%	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	?	+
27	Salazar (R)	22%	+	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	+
28	Gimenez (R)	22%	+	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	+
GEORGIA												
1	Carter (R)	50%	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+
2	Bishop (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Ferguson (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+
4	Johnson (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Williams (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	McCormick (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+
7	McBath (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Scott (R)	50%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
9	Clyde (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
10	Collins (R)	80%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
11	Loudermilk (R)	89%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	?
12	Allen (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
13	Scott (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Greene (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
HAWAII												
1	Case (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Tokuda (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IDAHO												
1	Fulcher (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
2	Simpson (R)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
ILLINOIS												
1	Jackson (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Kelly (D)	0%	-	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Ramirez (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
4	García (D)	0%	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Quigley (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-
6	Casten (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Davis (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Krishnamoorthi (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Schakowsky (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Schneider (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Foster (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Bost (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
13	Budzinski (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Underwood (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Miller (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
16	LaHood (R)	30%	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
17	Sorensen (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INDIANA												
1	Mrvan (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Yakym (R)	50%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
3	Banks (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
4	Baird (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+
5	Spartz (R)	78%	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	?	+
6	Pence (R)	43%	?	?	-	+	?	-	+	-	-	+
7	Carson (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Bucshon (R)	33%	+	?	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
9	Houchin (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+
IOWA												
1	Miller-Meeks (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
2	Hinson (R)	40%	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+

	Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	Nunn (R)	40%	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+
4	Feenstra (R)	50%	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+
KANSAS												
1	Mann (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
2	LaTurner (R)	50%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
3	Davids (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Estes (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
KENTUCKY												
1	Comer (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
2	Guthrie (R)	40%	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
3	McGarvey (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Massie (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
5	Rogers (R)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
6	Barr (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+
LOUISIANA												
1	Scalise (R)	71%	+	+	?	+	?	+	?	-	-	+
2	Carter (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-
3	Higgins (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+
4	Johnson (R)	75%	+	?	+	+	+	+	?	-	-	+
5	Letlow (R)	44%	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	+
6	Graves (R)	40%	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+
MAINE												
1	Pingree (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
2	Golden (D)	30%	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
MARYLAND												
1	Harris (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+
2	Ruppersberger (D)	0%	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-
3	Sarbanes (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Ivey (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Hoyer (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Trone (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-
7	Mfume (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Raskin (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MASSACHUSETTS												
1	Neal (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	McGovern (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Trahan (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Auchincloss (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Clark (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Moulton (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Pressley (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	+	-
8	Lynch (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Keating (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MICHIGAN												
1	Bergman (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
2	Moolenaar (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+
3	Scholten (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Huizenga (R)	50%	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+
5	Walberg (R)	80%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
6	Dingell (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-
7	Slotkin (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Kildee (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	McClain (R)	75%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	?	?
10	James (R)	40%	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
11	Stevens (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Tlaib (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
13	Thanedar (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MINNESOTA												
1	Finstad (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
2	Craig (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Phillips (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a representative did not vote. If a representative cast fewer than five votes in this scorecard, a rating is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 24, 26, and 28.

bill (H.R. 4665), Representative Scott Perry (R-Pa.) offered an amendment to eliminate all $2,548,250,000 of funding for the State Department's Migration and Refugee Assistance program.

The House rejected Perry's amendment on September 28, 2023 by a vote of 121 to 311 (Roll Call 469). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because this program encourages increased immigration, which is a tool of the Deep State to fundamentally transform the United States by deliberately changing the country's demographics, thus radically altering the voting patterns of the nation.

7 IRS Firearms and Ammunition

During consideration of the fiscal 2024 financial-services appropriations bill (H.R. 4664), Representative Diana Harshbarger (R-Tenn.) offered an amendment to strike all funding for firearms and ammunition for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The House rejected Harshbarger's amendment on November 8, 2023 by a vote of 187 to 238 (Roll Call 625). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the federal government is not constitutionally authorized to engage in domestic law enforcement, as the 10th Amendment clarifies. IRS agents should not be armed with guns, ammunition, or military-style equipment. Rather, the IRS ought to be defunded and abolished. The American people must demand that Congress end the weaponization of the federal bureaucracy, reject all efforts to create a nationalized police force, and work to repeal the 16th Amendment (income tax).

8 Ukraine Aid

The "Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act" (H.R. 8035) would provide $60.8 billion for security assistance to Ukraine and replenishing U.S. stockpiles of military equipment already provided to that country.

The House passed H.R. 8035 on April 20, 2024 by a vote of 311 to 112 (Roll Call 151). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the United States should not interfere in the war in Ukraine by providing aid to one of the combatants. Congress has not declared war, as required by the U.S. Constitution to go to war, and foreign aid, not being one of the powers delegated to the federal government, is unconstitutional. Moreover, the United States should pursue a sound foreign policy of noninterventionism, based on U.S. national interests and the intent of the Founding Fathers.

AP Images

Endless foreign aid? The United States' involvement in foreign entanglements not only violates its national interests, but is unconstitutional. Despite this, Congress voted to deepen U.S. involvement in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

9 Federal Police Grants

Representative Wesley Hunt (R-Texas) made a motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 546, the "Recruit and Retain Act," which expands the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) federal grant program intended to support the recruitment efforts of law-enforcement agencies, including local police, throughout the country.

The House agreed to Hunt's motion on May 14, 2024 by a vote of 370 to 18 (Roll Call 196). We have assigned pluses to the nays because Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution does not authorize Congress to support local law-enforcement agencies. Federal funding of local police departments and county sheriffs comes with strings attached, usually in the form of oversight, regulations, and other homogenized standards — none of which are constitutional.

10 Central Bank Digital Currency

H.R. 5403, the "CBDC Anti-Surveillance State Act," would prohibit the Federal Reserve from issuing a central bank digital currency (CBDC) without congressional authorization. It would bar the Fed from offering services directly to individuals or maintaining accounts on their behalf, including through intermediaries. These restrictions would not apply to digital currencies that are "open, permissionless, and private." The bill would also prohibit the Fed from testing a digital currency without congressional authorization.

The House passed H.R. 5403 on May 23, 2024 by a vote of 216 to 192 (Roll Call 230). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because Article I, Sections 8 and 10 of the Constitution state that only Congress has the power to "coin Money," referring to precious metals such as gold and silver. Not only do the Federal Reserve and fiat money violate these provisions, but a digital currency can be easily tracked, allowing the government to monitor all financial transactions. ■

	Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4	McCollum (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Omar (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
6	Emmer (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+
7	Fischbach (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
8	Stauber (R)	70%	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+
MISSISSIPPI												
1	Kelly (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
2	Thompson (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Guest (R)	70%	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
4	Ezell (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
MISSOURI												
1	Bush (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	?	?	-	-	-	-
2	Wagner (R)	50%	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+
3	Luetkemeyer (R)	56%	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	?	-	+
4	Alford (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
5	Cleaver (D)	0%	-	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	?	?
6	Graves (R)	50%	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+
7	Burlison (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+
8	Smith (R)	60%	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+
MONTANA												
1	Zinke (R)	89%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	?	+
2	Rosendale (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
NEBRASKA												
1	Flood (R)	50%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
2	Bacon (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
3	Smith (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+
NEVADA												
1	Titus (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Amodei (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+
3	Lee (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Horsford (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW HAMPSHIRE												
1	Pappas (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Kuster (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW JERSEY												
1	Norcross (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-
2	Van Drew (R)	80%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
3	Kim (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
4	Smith (R)	50%	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+
5	Gottheimer (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-
6	Pallone (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Kean (R)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
8	Menendez (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Pascrell (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Payne (D)	0%	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	?		
11	Sherrill (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Watson Coleman (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW MEXICO												
1	Stansbury (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
2	Vasquez (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Leger Fernandez (D)	0%	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW YORK												
1	LaLota (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
2	Garbarino (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
3	Suozzi (D)									-	-	-
4	D'Esposito (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
5	Meeks (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Meng (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Velázquez (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
8	Jeffries (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Clarke (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	Goldman (D)	0%	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-
11	Malliotakis (R)	40%	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+
12	Nadler (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Espaillat (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Ocasio-Cortez (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	?
15	Torres (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
16	Bowman (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Lawler (R)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
18	Ryan (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	Molinaro (R)	40%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+
20	Tonko (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Stefanik (R)	70%	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
22	Williams (R)	44%	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	?	-	+
23	Langworthy (R)	60%	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
24	Tenney (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+
25	Morelle (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-
26	Kennedy (D)										-	-
NORTH CAROLINA												
1	Davis (D)	11%	+	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Ross (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Murphy (R)	78%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	?
4	Foushee (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Foxx (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
6	Manning (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Rouzer (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
8	Bishop (R)	89%	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	-	+
9	Hudson (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
10	McHenry (R)	56%	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	?	+
11	Edwards (R)	40%	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
12	Adams (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Nickel (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Jackson (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	?
NORTH DAKOTA												
AL	Armstrong (R)	75%	+	+	-	+	+	-	?	+	?	+
OHIO												
1	Landsman (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
2	Wenstrup (R)	50%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
3	Beatty (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
4	Jordan (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
5	Latta (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+
6	Rulli (R)											
7	Miller (R)	50%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
8	Davidson (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
9	Kaptur (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Turner (R)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
11	Brown (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Balderson (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+
13	Sykes (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Joyce (R)	30%	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
15	Carey (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+
OKLAHOMA												
1	Hern (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
2	Brecheen (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
3	Lucas (R)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+
4	Cole (R)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
5	Bice (R)	40%	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+
OREGON												
1	Bonamici (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Bentz (R)	50%	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+
3	Blumenauer (D)	0%	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
4	Hoyle (D)	11%	+	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Chavez-DeRemer (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
6	Salinas (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PENNSYLVANIA											
1 Fitzpatrick (R)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
2 Boyle (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 Evans (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	?
4 Dean (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 Scanlon (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Houlahan (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Wild (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Cartwright (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Meuser (R)	56%	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	?	-	+
10 Perry (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
11 Smucker (R)	50%	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+
12 Lee (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
13 Joyce (R)	80%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
14 Reschenthaler (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+
15 Thompson (R)	40%	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
16 Kelly (R)	50%	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+
17 Deluzio (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RHODE ISLAND											
1 Amo (D)									-	-	-
2 Magaziner (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	?
SOUTH CAROLINA											
1 Mace (R)	56%	+	-	-	?	+	-	+	+	-	+
2 Wilson (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+
3 Duncan (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
4 Timmons (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+
5 Norman (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
6 Clyburn (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Fry (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
SOUTH DAKOTA											
AL Johnson (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+
TENNESSEE											
1 Harshbarger (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
2 Burchett (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
3 Fleischmann (R)	50%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
4 DesJarlais (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
5 Ogles (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
6 Rose (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
7 Green (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
8 Kustoff (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+
9 Cohen (D)	0%	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEXAS											
1 Moran (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
2 Crenshaw (R)	44%	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	?	+
3 Self (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
4 Fallon (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
5 Gooden (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
6 Ellzey (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
7 Fletcher (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Luttrell (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
9 Green (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	?
10 McCaul (R)	40%	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
11 Pfluger (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+
12 Granger (R)	38%	+	-	-	?	-	-	+	-	?	+
13 Jackson (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
14 Weber (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
15 De La Cruz (R)	50%	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+
16 Escobar (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17 Sessions (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+
18 Jackson Lee (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	?	?
19 Arrington (R)	78%	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	-	+
20 Castro (D)	0%	-	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21 Roy (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
22 Nehls (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
23 Gonzales (R)	44%	+	-	-	-	+	?	+	-	-	+
24 Van Duyne (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
25 Williams (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+
26 Burgess (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+
27 Cloud (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
28 Cuellar (D)	0%	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-
29 Garcia (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 Crockett (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 Carter (R)	25%	+	-	-	-	?	?	-	-	-	+
32 Allred (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33 Veasey (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34 Gonzalez (D)	10%	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 Casar (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	?	-
36 Babin (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
37 Doggett (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
38 Hunt (R)	89%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	-	+
UTAH											
1 Moore (R)	44%	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	?	+
2 Maloy (R)									+	-	+
3 Curtis (R)	67%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	?	+
4 Owens (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
VERMONT											
AL Balint (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VIRGINIA											
1 Wittman (R)	50%	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+
2 Kiggans (R)	40%	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+
3 Scott (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 McClellan (D)	0%		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 Good (R)	100%	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
6 Cline (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
7 Spanberger (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Beyer (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Griffith (R)	50%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
10 Wexton (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-
11 Connolly (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WASHINGTON											
1 DelBene (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Larsen (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-
3 Gluesenkamp Perez (D)	40%	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
4 Newhouse (R)	40%	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
5 McMorris Rodgers (R)	50%	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
6 Kilmer (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Jayapal (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Schrier (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Smith (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 Strickland (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEST VIRGINIA											
1 Miller (R)	89%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	?	+
2 Mooney (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+
WISCONSIN											
1 Steil (R)	50%	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+
2 Pocan (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 Van Orden (R)	60%	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+
4 Moore (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
5 Fitzgerald (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
6 Grothman (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
7 Tiffany (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
8 Gallagher (R)	63%	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-		
WYOMING											
AL Hageman (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a representative did not vote. If a representative cast fewer than five votes in this scorecard, a rating is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 24, 26, and 28.

Senate Vote Descriptions

1 WHO Pandemic Treaty

During consideration of the bill to repeal the authorizations for the use of military force against Iraq (S. 316), Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) introduced an amendment that would require any convention or agreement about pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by either the World Health Assembly or the International Negotiating Body of the World Health Organization (WHO) to be deemed as "a treaty that is subject to the requirements of article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States," according to the text of the amendment.

The Senate rejected Johnson's amendment on March 28, 2023 by a vote of 47 to 49 (Roll Call 71). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because in recent decades both the Executive Branch and Congress have regularly skirted the constitutional requirement in Article II, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution that treaties have to be made with the "Advice and Consent of the Senate … provided two thirds of the Senators present concur." Instead of recognizing agreements as treaties, they unconstitutionally designate them as "executive agreements," thereby enabling the president and Congress to avoid seeking the advice and consent of the Senate and pass them by a simple majority of the House and Senate, rather than the more rigorous threshold of two-thirds of the senators present.

damircudic/Getty Images Plus

Life-or-death struggle: Our founding documents — including the Declaration of Independence — recognize the God-given right to life. The Senate narrowly rejected a measure to overturn a federal VA regulation that subsidizes abortions, directly violating this unalienable right.

2 Abortion

S. J. Res. 10 would reverse the September 2022 Department of Veterans Affairs rule allowing medical benefit coverage for abortion counseling and procedures. This rule overturned longstanding VA regulations excluding abortion from its coverage.

The Senate rejected S. J. Res. 10 on April 19, 2023 by a vote of 48 to 51 (Roll Call 90). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because taxpayers should not be required to subsidize abortion services. The Declaration of Independence affirms the right to life as the most fundamental, God-given, and inherent right, which is further protected by the Fifth and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

3 ATF Firearm Brace Rule

H. J. Res. 44 would formally disapprove of a January 2023 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) rule expanding the definition of a "short-barreled rifle" to include those with stabilizing braces, and requiring such firearms to comply with various requirements under the National Firearms Act (NFA).

The Senate rejected H. J. Res. 44 on June 22, 2023 by a vote of 49 to 50 (Roll Call 171). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the ATF's stabilizing-brace rule violates the Second Amendment-protected right to keep and bear arms. Furthermore, there is no constitutional basis for the ATF's or NFA's existence.

4 Declaration of War

During consideration of the fiscal 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (S. 2226), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) offered an amendment "to express the sense of Congress that Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty does not supersede the constitu-

Senate Vote Scores ✓

	Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ALABAMA												
Tuberville (R)		100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?
Britt (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
ALASKA												
Murkowski (R)		40%	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-
Sullivan (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
ARIZONA												
Sinema (I)		10%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Kelly (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ARKANSAS												
Boozman (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Cotton (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
CALIFORNIA												
Padilla (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Butler (D)		0%					-	-	-	-	-	-
COLORADO												
Bennet (D)		10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Hickenlooper (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONNECTICUT												
Blumenthal (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Murphy (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DELAWARE												
Carper (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coons (D)		0%	?	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FLORIDA												
Rubio (R)		90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
Scott (R)		88%	+	+	+	-	+	+	?	?	+	+
GEORGIA												
Ossoff (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warnock (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-
HAWAII												
Schatz (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hirono (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IDAHO												
Crapo (R)		70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-
Risch (R)		70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-
ILLINOIS												
Durbin (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Duckworth (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INDIANA												
Young (R)		50%	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Braun (R)		100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	+
IOWA												
Grassley (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Ernst (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
KANSAS												
Moran (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Marshall (R)		100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
KENTUCKY												
McConnell (R)		56%	?	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Paul (R)		100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?
LOUISIANA												
Cassidy (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Kennedy (R)		90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-

	Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
MAINE												
Collins (R)		50%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
King (I)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MARYLAND												
Cardin (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Van Hollen (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MASSACHUSETTS												
Warren (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Markey (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MICHIGAN												
Stabenow (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peters (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MINNESOTA												
Klobuchar (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smith (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISSISSIPPI												
Wicker (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Hyde-Smith (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
MISSOURI												
Hawley (R)		100%	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+
Schmitt (R)		100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+
MONTANA												
Tester (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Daines (R)		90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
NEBRASKA												
Fischer (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Ricketts (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-
NEVADA												
Cortez Masto (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-
Rosen (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW HAMPSHIRE												
Shaheen (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hassan (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW JERSEY												
Menendez (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Booker (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW MEXICO												
Heinrich (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lujan (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW YORK												
Schumer (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gillibrand (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NORTH CAROLINA												
Tillis (R)		56%	+	+	+	-	?	+	+	-	-	-
Budd (R)		80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+
NORTH DAKOTA												
Hoeven (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Cramer (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
OHIO												
Brown (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vance (R)		100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+
OKLAHOMA												
Lankford (R)		80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Mullin (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-

	Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
OREGON												
Wyden (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merkley (D)		10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
PENNSYLVANIA												
Casey (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fetterman (D)		0%	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RHODE ISLAND												
Reed (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whitehouse (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOUTH CAROLINA												
Graham (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Scott (R)		75%	+	+	+	-	?	+	+	+	-	?
SOUTH DAKOTA												
Thune (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Rounds (R)		50%	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-
TENNESSEE												
Blackburn (R)		89%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	?	+
Hagerty (R)		100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+
TEXAS												
Cornyn (R)		60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Cruz (R)		90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+

	Votes:	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
UTAH												
Lee (R)		100%	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+
Romney (R)		44%	+	+	+	-	-	?	+	-	-	-
VERMONT												
Sanders (I)		30%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+
Welch (D)		10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
VIRGINIA												
Warner (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kaine (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WASHINGTON												
Murray (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cantwell (D)		0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEST VIRGINIA												
Manchin (I)		13%	-	+	-	-	-	?	-	-	?	-
Capito (R)		67%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	?	-
WISCONSIN												
Johnson (R)		100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Baldwin (D)		10%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
WYOMING												
Barrasso (R)		88%	+	+	+	?	+	?	+	+	-	+
Lummis (R)		100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a senator did not vote. If a senator cast fewer than five votes in this scorecard, a rating is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to Senate vote descriptions on pages 31, 33, and 34.

tional requirement that Congress declare war before the United States engages in war." Under Article 5, member nations of NATO "agree that an armed attack against one or more of them … shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them … will assist the Party or Parties so attacked."

The Senate rejected Paul's amendment on July 19, 2023 by a vote of 16 to 83 (Roll Call 191). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because according to the U.S. Constitution only Congress has the authority to declare war. U.S. membership in NATO increases the likelihood of the United States being dragged into a war that neither the American people nor Congress wants. Rather than allowing NATO and its UN parent to determine when we go to war, we should get out of both organizations.

5 Audit the Fed

During consideration of a consolidated appropriations minibus (H.R. 4366), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) offered an amendment to require that the U.S. comptroller general conduct a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Reserve banks.

The Senate rejected Paul's amendment on November 1, 2023 by a vote of 46 to 51 (Roll Call 280). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the Federal Reserve System, essentially a cartel of private banks functioning as a central bank, is unconstitutional and responsible for many of the nation's current financial problems via its control of money and credit. Auditing the Fed would shed light on its otherwise secretive practices, and perhaps lead to its eventual abolishment.

6 Counting Noncitizens in Census

During consideration of the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024" (H.R. 4366), Senator Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.) offered an amendment to "require that the census determine basic population statistics like the number of citizens, noncitizens, and illegal aliens that live in this country, and … require that only U.S. citizens be counted in determining the number of House seats and electoral votes that each State gets," as he explained on the Senate floor.

The Senate rejected Hagerty's amendment on March 8, 2024 by a vote of 45 to 51 (Roll Call 83). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the purpose of the U.S. Census is to determine the allotment of congressional seats and Electoral College votes for each state. Illegal aliens, who are not U.S. citizens, should not be counted toward determining those numbers. Furthermore, changing the demographics of a congressional district or state also changes the voting patterns of those areas.

7 Free Speech

During consideration of the "Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024" (H.R. 2882), Senator Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.) offered an amendment to prohibit funds under the bill from being used by the federal government to label a U.S. citizen's speech as "disinformation or misinformation" or to coerce online platforms to alter, remove, restrict, or suppress such speech.

The Senate rejected Schmitt's amendment on March 23, 2024 by a vote of 47 to 51 (Roll Call 109). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the First Amendment specifically states that "Congress shall make no law … abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." This restrictive clause was designed to protect Americans' right to free speech from "misconstruction or abuse" of power by the

federal government, as expressed in the 1789 Joint Resolution of Congress proposing the Bill of Rights.

8 Consolidated Appropriations

H.R. 2882, the "Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024," would appropriate $1.2 trillion in total funding for fiscal 2024. Among other provisions, it would provide $825 billion for the Department of Defense; $224.7 billion for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; $89.8 billion for the Department of Homeland Security; and $58.3 billion for the Department of State. Furthermore, H.R. 2882 would provide $300 million for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative and $500 million for defense assistance to Israel; extend the National Flood Insurance Program through September 30, 2024; and prohibit funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency through fiscal 2025.

The Senate passed H.R. 2882 on March 23, 2024 by a vote of 74 to 24 (Roll Call 114). We have assigned pluses to the nays because of the many unconstitutional agencies and programs that it would fund, including funding our further entanglement in the Ukraine-Russia and Israel-Hamas conflicts without a congressional declaration of war, and because this reckless spending is yielding record increases in the national debt.

9 Surveilling U.S. Citizens

During consideration of a bill to reauthorize Title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA (H.R. 7888), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) offered an amendment to prohibit federal officials from requesting orders under FISA to surveil U.S. persons, including citizens and permanent residents. It would ban officials from querying information collected under Section 702 using search terms connected to a U.S. person. Additionally, the amendment would prohibit information obtained about a U.S. person from being used as evidence against that person in criminal, civil, or administrative proceedings.

The Senate rejected Paul's amendment on April 19, 2024 by a vote of 11 to 81 (Roll Call 147). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the Fourth Amendment prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures and requires any warrant to be judicially sanctioned and supported by probable cause.

10 Foreign Aid Package

Senator Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) made a motion to pass H.R. 815, which would provide a total of $95.3 billion in "emergency" aid for Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan. The bill's provisions include $60.8 billion for Ukraine (part of this funding is for replenishing U.S. stockpiles of military equipment already provided to that country), $26.4 billion for Israel, and $8.1 billion for Taiwan and other U.S. allies in the region.

The Senate agreed to Schumer's motion on April 23, 2024 by a vote of 79 to 18 (Roll Call 154). We have assigned pluses to the nays because foreign aid, not being one of the enumerated powers granted to the federal government in the Constitution, is unconstitutional, and the United States should follow a noninterventionist policy and avoid becoming embroiled in foreign quarrels. ■

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The Necessity of Intolerance

by Selwyn Duke

If "tolerance is the virtue of the man without convictions," as G.K. Chesterton put it, a question suggests itself:

Is intolerance the virtue of the principled man?

Literally speaking, neither tolerance nor intolerance is a "virtue"; that is, one of those defined "objectively good moral habits." Exhibiting each, however, in its proper context, can be virtuous. Even more significantly, wisely applied intolerance is certainly this: necessary for the preservation of virtue in civilization. This task is of the utmost importance, too, as the Founders well understood, Benjamin Franklin among them. "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom," he observed. "As nations become more corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters." Thus do we need "A Plea for Intolerance" — and, thankfully, we have one, in the form of a book chapter by that very title penned by legendary Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in 1931.

And Sheen's words, being timeless, haven't lost their sheen. "America, it is said, is suffering from intolerance. It is not," he began. "It is suffering from tolerance: tolerance of right and wrong, truth and error, virtue and evil, Christ and chaos. Our country is not nearly so much overrun with the bigoted as it is overrun with the broad-minded."

Now, coming to mind here could be the comedic saying, "It's important to have an open mind, but not so open that your brain falls out." But Sheen was spot-on. People will rightly recoil at anyone who'd devalue a race but then, accepting man as mere animal, devalue the human race. We'll hear that we mustn't be sex*ist*, even as we also hear that there's nothing of substance to attach that "ist" to because "sex" is essentially a social construct. We're also told we mustn't make judgments because virtues are values and values are variable, as in relative, but then must accept fashionable judgments because, somehow, today's relativists' rules must be reckoned reality.

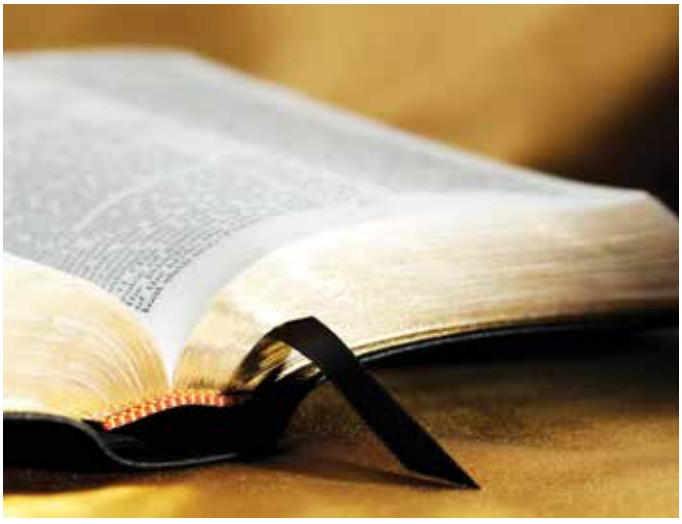
Then there was Sheen's prescription. "In the face of this false broad-mindedness," he wrote, "what the world needs is intolerance." Of course, this sounds profoundly counterintuitive, which, given our counterculture culture, is a clue it's likely correct. But the problem lies in the (mis)understanding of the word. That is, there "are some minds that believe that intolerance is always wrong, because they make 'intolerance' mean hate, narrow-mindedness, and bigotry," the clergyman explained. "These same minds believe that tolerance is always right because, for them, it means charity, broad-mindedness, American good nature."

The actual meaning of "tolerance," however, is easily discerned from the word. You are *tolerating* — something. A man would not whisper in the ear of a woman he aimed to woo, "I tolerate you with all my heart!" any more than he would say about having to put up with a stubborn cold, "I'm feeling amo-

fizkes/Getty Images Plus

Selwyn Duke has written for The New American *for more than a decade. He has also written for* The Hill*, Observer,* The American Conservative*, WorldNetDaily, American Thinker, and many other print and online publications.*

rous toward this rhinovirus!" And if at a restaurant your waiter asked you how your meal was and you responded, "I'm tolerating it greatly, thank you," he may rightly worry about receiving an intolerable tip. You would never tolerate beauty, a delectable meal, or a sublime work of art; you *relish* such things. You would, though, have to tolerate a bad flu, foul weather, or the hunger pangs that attend fasting. "Tolerance" *always* implies the abiding of a perceived negative; the only question is whether that perceived negative is also an objective one.



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Yet more significant "than the definition is the field of its application," asserts Sheen. "Tolerance applies to the erring; intolerance to the error." Put differently, we may choose to tolerate a sinner, but we should never *willingly* tolerate sin.

So what does this mean in practice? There are only two situations in which tolerance is virtuous. The first is when a perceived negative is not objectively so and a good reason to abide it exists. An example would be when a host serves food you don't particularly like, but you eat it with a smile so as not to offend. The second is when you bear nobly a negative that simply cannot be remedied. Examples would be that stubborn flu or bad weather; keeping a stiff upper lip reflects much better character than chronic whining does. What, however, of an objective negative, such as an evil, that can be remedied? Well, about this "we must be intolerant," wrote Sheen, "and for this kind of intolerance, so much needed to rouse us from sentimental gush, I make a plea. Intolerance of this kind is the foundation of all stability."

In other words, when at issue is a remediable evil, virtue only lies in making it history.

Make no mistake, either: Correctly applied intolerance is a loving act. If a person has sexual-identity disorder (aka "gender dysphoria") and believes he should be the opposite sex, tolerance of him is fine as you offer him counsel. But what if he, perhaps in a vain effort to make himself feel better, seeks to normalize his cross as a "lifestyle choice" and, with misery loving company, tells kids to "explore other identities"? This is where intolerance must be marshaled — intolerance, that is, for his behavior.

In fact, we go to great lengths to secure a healthful environment for our children, and wouldn't tolerate lead paint or radon gas in their school. But does love not dictate that we do no less with their moral environment? Moreover, if we indulged toxicological relativism and did allow the lead paint or radon to remain, would the kids not get the message that, well, it must not be so bad? The point: Choosing to abide an objective negative doesn't signal tolerance, but acceptance. Apropos to this, just imagine what a child might instinctively conclude about "Drag Queen Story Hour's" existence. Could he possibly think, maybe, just perhaps, "The grown-ups could stop this, but they don't. It must be okay"?

Really, though, our "tolerance" for beliefs, even when erroneous, reflects our society's great error: disbelieving in Truth. Putting it very well, too, was St. Michael Catholic Radio's Adam Minihan in 2017. Commenting on the Chesterton quotation I opened this article with, he stated:

> In order for a person to possess convictions about a belief, it is necessary, by definition, for the person to be convinced that his ... belief is true. However, if I sincerely consider everyone's beliefs, lifestyles, and truth claims as equal to my own, I can no longer claim any genuine conviction regarding my own beliefs. Chesterton was conveying nothing is behind mere tolerance. There is no conviction or virtue that supports tolerance for tolerance sake. When you hear the word tolerance, you instantly think of the new trigger phrase, "Don't judge." Call me crazy but I would rather have a disagreement with someone who loved me than to be tolerated by someone with only apathy. I think Chesterton's point is this: When we are faced with competing truth claims, the only way to arrive at a meaningful conclusion is by investigation. It's not by saying your truth is your truth[,] mine is mine, as this is the equation for insane relativism.

Perhaps this is why the Bible warns that we should be either hot or cold — not lukewarm. Lukewarm is the temperature of misapplied tolerance. Love-born intolerance is the hot filtration that purges the impurity of error. ■

Brave Cops Prevent Tragedy

In Macomb County, Michigan, a quick-thinking sheriff's deputy came to the rescue of a 63-year-old man who found himself in a potentially dangerous situation, ABC7 reported on September 19. Deputy Nicole Miron, along with her partner, Deputy Anthony Gross, spotted a truck moving erratically, albeit slowly, along a busy road. The truck was swerving and hitting curbs, and when they tried to pull the driver over, he continued to move at a very slow pace, around five miles per hour.

When the deputies pulled up beside the vehicle, they noticed the man behind the wheel seemed disoriented and unresponsive. Recognizing something was wrong, Miron knew she had to act fast. As the truck continued its slow journey down the road, Miron made a brave decision. In what looked like a scene from an action movie, she climbed from her patrol car, driven by Gross, and leaped onto the moving truck, reaching through the window to help the driver.

"Are you okay? Is the truck in park?" Miron asked, realizing the man was suffering from a medical emergency. Thanks to her quick response, she was able to bring the vehicle to a stop before it reached a busy intersection, avoiding what could have been a serious accident.

Miron later explained how fortuitous it was to have backup: "Luckily, we had a car following the vehicle so we could keep tabs on exactly where it was headed." Macomb County Sheriff Anthony Wickersham commended her actions, praising her for putting herself in harm's way to ensure the safety of the man and other drivers.

Miron also credited her partner, Gross, who had been on the job for only a couple of weeks, for his calm and steady handling of the patrol vehicle while she made the daring rescue. "That day was probably day 15 on the job," Gross noted, reflecting on the camaraderie that had developed between the two.

Despite being new partners, Miron and Gross worked together seamlessly to prevent a potentially dangerous incident.

BINGO!

In Roanoke, Virginia, a 99-year-old retired teacher, Martha McMullan, has made a positive impact on her community by ensuring local elementary-school children have the supplies they need to succeed. McMullan, who lives at the Hermitage Roanoke retirement community, is an avid bingo player and regularly saves her small winnings, which typically amount to about $2 each week.

When McMullan learned that students at Fairview Elementary School were in need of school supplies, she decided to take action. Over the course of a year, she saved her bingo money, and with the help of fellow residents at Hermitage Roanoke, raised $500 for the cause, WDBJ reported September 13.

A former fourth-grade teacher, McMullan felt a strong connection to the students and decided to print out the school's fourth-grade supply list. She used the funds to purchase 24 of each item on this school year's list, including essential tools such as glue sticks, pencils, crayons, and scissors. Additionally, recognizing the importance of technology in modern classrooms, she purchased earbuds for the students, even though, as she humorously admitted, "I didn't even know what earbuds were!"

Going beyond the basic supply list, McMullan bought 96 notebooks, ensuring that every student in the fourth grade would have more than enough to get through the school year. "The fact that these children need them, and now they have them, is really meaningful," she said, reflecting on the joy of helping the next generation of learners.

McMullan's selfless act has inspired many, including those on social media who celebrated her thoughtful contribution. "Martha is an amazing lady! Such an inspiration to all, with a true servant's heart," one commenter wrote, while another added, "Way to go, Martha!"

As McMullan continues to play bingo with her friends, she's already thinking ahead about her next project to support her community. Her story is a beautiful reminder that no matter your age, you can always make a difference.

Water Rescue

On a quiet Saturday in Brevard County, Florida, two courageous strangers sprang into action when a pickup truck veered off the road and plunged into the Indian River Lagoon. Ariana Ebert, on her way to work, was one of the first to spot the vehicle sinking into the water. Without hesitation, she pulled over and jumped into the river, determined to save the driver, identified only as Gerald, who was struggling to escape his sinking truck, Fox 35 Orlando reported September 9.

As Ebert approached the vehicle, she saw Gerald attempting to push his way out through the small back window, but the truck was already filling with water. "Mid-jump, I saw Gerald with just his arms and head sticking out, and then the truck completely sank with him still trapped inside," she recalled. Realizing the urgency of the situation, she swam over to help.

Meanwhile, another bystander, Don Cobb, had already leapt into the water and was trying to free Gerald. Cobb and Ebert worked together to keep Gerald's head above water, but it quickly became clear he was in dire straits. "He was turning blue and purple, and we had him halfway out, but his belt was caught," Ebert recalled. As their efforts seemed increasingly futile, Cobb suggested they pray, and both feared the worst.

Thankfully, a Brevard County Sheriff's deputy arrived just in time. The deputy immediately jumped in, helping Cobb and Ebert keep Gerald's head above water while they fought to free him. Once they got Gerald to shore, emergency responders administered CPR. Gerald survived thanks to the quick thinking and determination of his rescuers.

In recognition of their bravery, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office publicly thanked Ebert and Cobb for their heroic efforts.

While Gerald recovered from the ordeal, Ebert and Cobb planned a fundraiser at Cadillac Cove Restaurant and Bar in Satellite Beach to help cover his mounting medical expenses. Ebert, who has also set up an online fundraiser, said, "Together, we can help Gerald get back on his feet." ■

— Raven Clabough

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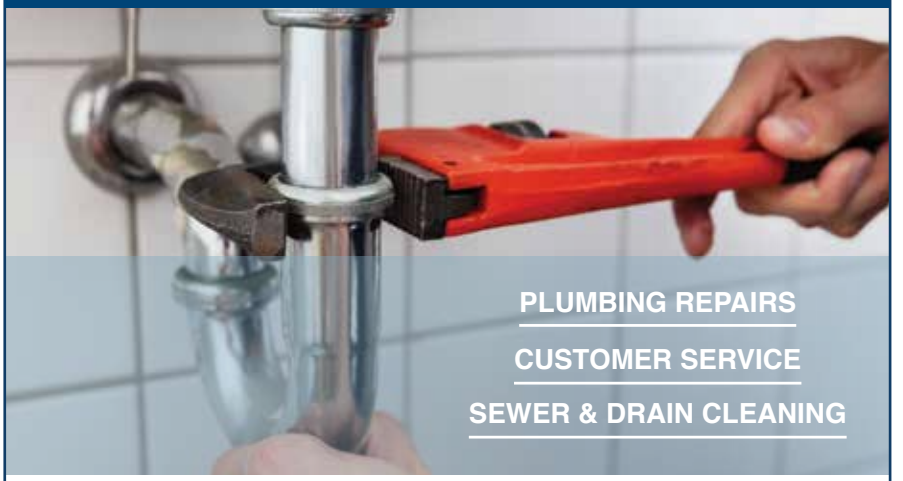

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Matricidal Maniac

A terrifying story out of Hobbs, New Mexico, is a stark reminder of why it's always good to have firearms in your home. KCBD.com reported on September 26 about a horrifying ordeal involving a man, later identified by police as 38-year-old Curtis Thames, who forced his way into a neighbor's house in the middle of the night. The homeowners fled to a bedroom and they barricaded themselves inside for protection. Thames allegedly was outside the bedroom trying to get in when the homeowners fired one shot through the door, which hit Thames and mortally wounded him. Police soon arrived and discovered the wounded suspect at the scene. Thames was transported to a nearby medical facility but he later succumbed to his gunshot wound.

Police also searched Thames' house, where they discovered his mother's decapitated body. They believe a hacksaw was used in the crime. Police also discovered what they referred to as "a large amount of cocaine."

The investigation is still ongoing, and Thames is the prime suspect in his mother's murder. Police are still trying to piece together the details of that night, but one thing is certain: It's a good thing the neighbors were able to defend themselves with a gun and not end up as victims in a deadly rampage.

A Fine Line

KSNV-TV out of Las Vegas reported on September 27 about a deadly shooting that occurred as a result of what might have been an attempted home break-in. Police say homeowners called 911 when a man tried forcing his way into their house. In public remarks, Las Vegas Metro Police Department Homicide Lieutenant Jason Johansson said that the man "was acting extremely irrationally and was not listening to what [the homeowners] were telling him. [They] continued to tell him to leave the property, at which time he moved towards the doorway where they were at, where the homeowner felt the need to shoot the male…. As officers were dispatched towards this location, our dispatcher heard a shot being fired over the 911 call and the people who called 911 relayed that they had just shot the male who tried to break into their house…. Medical arrived shortly after and transported [the suspect] to University Medical Center where unfortunately he was pronounced deceased."

The homeowner's action will most likely be considered a justifiable homicide, although the investigation is still ongoing. KSNV-TV featured an interview with criminal defense attorney Joseph Gersten, who discussed Nevada state laws pertaining to armed self-defense. "You are presumed essentially innocent if you're in your own home and somebody comes in to commit a crime," Gersten explained. He mentioned that Nevada state laws are actually pretty strong when it comes to armed self-defense: "You're allowed to stand your ground as long as you're not the original aggressor, meaning you didn't bring the fight to wherever it is. You have a right to be present where the deadly force is used; so you're not a trespasser or an unwelcome guest, something like that; and lastly you're not engaged in illegal conduct yourself." Gersten stressed that to be protected under the law, you have to make sure you didn't escalate the underlying situation: "To avoid any issue all you need to do is close your door right? Close your door and call the police. So, again, if the danger comes to you, you're doing good. If the danger is something that you go to; not so good. That is where the laws will sort of turn on you."

Illinois Gun Control Struck Down by Federal Court

The Center Square reported on September 23 about how Democrats in Chicago are appealing a district court ruling that overturned an Illinois gun law. The underlying case, *Schoenthal v. Raoul*, was filed two years ago and specifically challenged the Illinois law that prohibited the concealed carrying of firearms on mass transit even if the gun owner is lawfully licensed to carry concealed. Judge Iain Johnston, who was appointed to the court by President Trump, held that "Plaintiffs' proposed conduct — carrying concealed handguns on public transit for self-defense — falls within the presumptive ambit of the Second Amendment, shifting the burden to Defendants to show that the Firearm Concealed Carry Act's ban falls within the historical tradition of firearm regulation in this country…. On the record before the Court in this case, Defendants have failed to meet their burden."

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker was upset over the decision and stated that he hopes the Illinois attorney general's office will appeal all the way up to the Supreme Court if necessary. Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul did file an appeal to the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, and it remains to be seen what ultimately happens with the law. David Sigale, the attorney for the plaintiffs in the case, explained that, practically speaking, the law will be difficult to enforce due to this decision. He also noted that criminals should be careful about targeting people on mass transit. "Because [criminals] know that if they do, the people that they're victimizing might actually be able to defend themselves," he told The Center Square. He advised people to comply with the law for the time being while things play out in the courts, although he admitted that the state will find itself in a pickle if it actually attempts to enforce the law: "But the fact is that I think [the state of Illinois] would have a really tough time right now trying to justify how to enforce a law that a federal judge has told them is unconstitutional."

Sigale also sent an email to reporters in which he explained the significance of the decision: "But this is an important ruling regarding locations where law-abiding persons have too often been vulnerable, and we are gratified by the Court's ruling upholding their Second Amendment right of self-defense." ■

— Patrick Krey

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CLASSICS
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Orwell's Warning

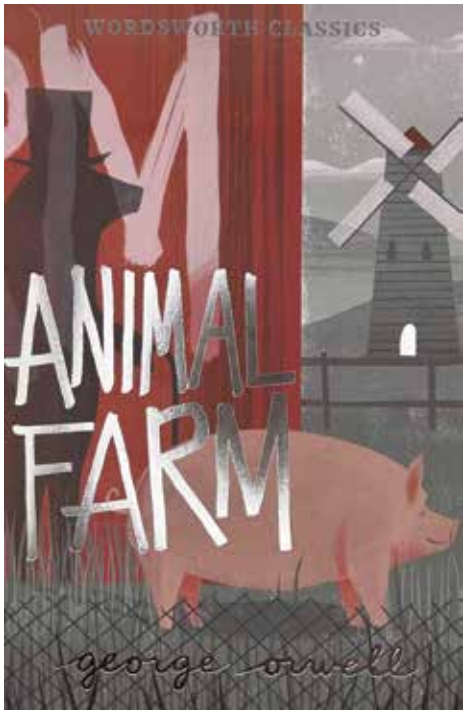
by Steve Byas

***Animal Farm*,** by George Orwell, New York: Signet Classics, 2020, 140 pages, paperback.

As we approach the 80th anniversary of the publication of *Animal Farm*, a novelized attack upon Joseph Stalin's Soviet Union in particular and totalitarianism in general, the lessons of that "fairy tale" are more relevant today than they were in the aftermath of the Second World War.

Animal Farm was one of two classics written by Englishman Eric Blair, who took on the pen name George Orwell — the other being *1984*, a dystopian novel that used human characters, not farm animals — in an effort to warn of totalitarianism in the noncommunist world.

Orwell was educated at England's most acclaimed prep school, Eton, and desired to make a living writing novels. He was hardly a staunch right-winger. At the time he published *Animal Farm*, he was an avowed democratic socialist. Like many socialists of his day, he had a conviction that socialism had not been implemented correctly, believing that the horrors of the Union of Soviet *Socialist* Republics (USSR) were an aberration. By the time he wrote *1984*, Orwell's fictional villains were proponents of



English Socialism — IngSoc, as he called it. One might wonder what Orwell would think of "democratic" socialism today, and how his two classics are now used seemingly as instruction manuals, rather than warnings of what to avoid.

While many in America and in his own country were defending Stalin, our "ally" in the war against National *Socialist* Germany, Orwell chose to issue a challenge to such adoration with *Animal Farm*.

The plot is simple enough. Once one can accept a suspension of disbelief that animals could learn to read and use human speech, the story pretty much follows the Marxist view of life and history, today embodied in Marxist "critical theory," of which critical race theory is a part. Manor Farm represents pre-Communist Russia. Farmer Jones, the owner of Manor Farm, represents the oppressor class, and the animals the oppressed class, of Marxist ideology.

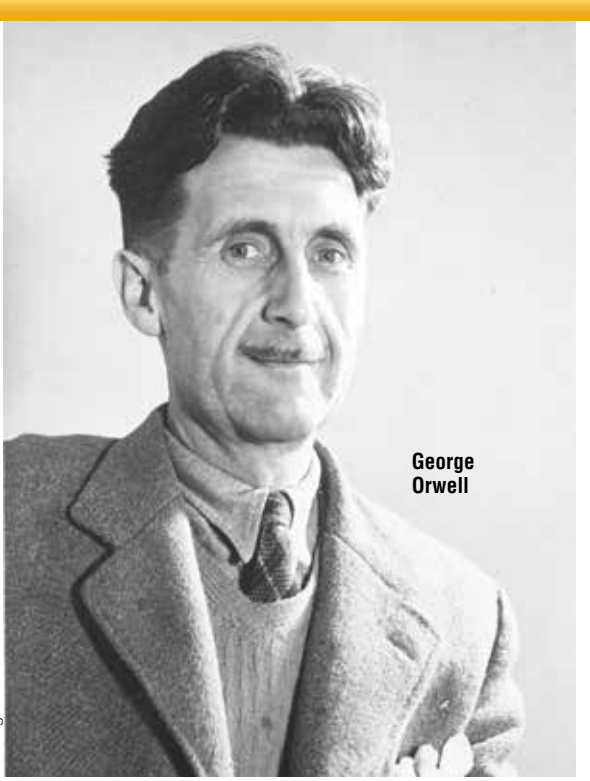
The revolution on Manor Farm, as in Russia, came suddenly, with the animals following the teachings of an aging pig, Old Major. Major was representative of Karl Marx and the first communist dictator of the Soviet Union, Vladimir Lenin. Very soon after Jones is expelled from the farm, the pigs, especially two of them — Napoleon (representing Stalin) and Snowball (representing Leon Trotsky, who had led the communist Red Army to victory over their opponents) — take control of the farm and rename it "Animal Farm."

As was the case with Stalin and Trotsky, Napoleon and Snowball vied for power, with Napoleon eventually winning out. Napoleon had secretly raised some puppies into fierce dogs, who represented the Soviet Secret Police, and, dispensing with attempting to win over the other animals through persuasion, he used the dogs to drive Snowball off the farm. (Stalin's agents eventually tracked Trotsky down in Mexico and put an axe in his head.)

The pigs claimed that "all animals are equal," but it soon became very clear that they really did not believe that. They in-

crementally increased their control through various means until Napoleon was more of an absolute despot than Jones ever was.

Orwell uses the events of history, such as Lenin's "New Economic Policy" under which, when the pure communist economic system was predictably failing miserably, Lenin invited the "capitalists" back into the country and allowed some free-market activities. Stalin's secret deal with Adolf Hitler to carve up Poland is also found in the story, with Mr. Frederick of neighboring Pinchfield Farm representing Hitler's Germany. Frederick launches an attack on Animal Farm, with the animals barely staving off the invasion, paralleling Hitler's surprise attack on the Soviet Union in 1941.



George Orwell

AP Images

All of these allusions to historical events, however, are just material Orwell utilizes to attack the totalitarian communist system of Stalin. While Stalin is hardly a figure many will defend today, this was not the case before and during World War II. For example, *Mission to Moscow* was a 1943 film based on the 1941 book by Joseph Davies, the former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union. The book and the movie were so sympathetic to Soviet communism — even defending the worst repressions under Stalin — that detractors have dubbed it "Mission *for* Moscow."

It was in this pro-Stalin atmosphere of the day that Orwell wrote *Animal Farm*. This made it very difficult for him to get a publisher. Few wanted to be held responsible for allowing anything that questioned the goodness of our supposed "noble ally" during the Second World War.

Fortunately, Orwell's novel was eventually published, and was successful. It grew in success during the Cold War, when the tide of public opinion shifted toward opposition to the Soviet Union.

While Orwell's immediate target was certainly Stalin, one of history's greatest monsters, the book was also intended as a warning against any sort of totalitarianism. As one commentator, Anirudh Parthasarathy, put it, "George Orwell captures the giddy rise and inevitable corruption of utopian socialist ideals in a way that can be understood by everyone in a cute but gritty allegory.… Orwell makes his point that absolute power in any form corrupts."

Despite the myth that socialism and communism lead to an egalitarian society ("All animals are equal"), Orwell's novel details the slow but steady shift in power and privileges toward a select class. In some societies that Marx used as examples of a ruling class abusing those of the oppressed class, certain individuals have special privileges not enjoyed by the vast majority of the population. Alas, socialist leaders — whether Fidel Castro in Cuba, or Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union — do not live in tiny houses with little beyond the bare necessities of life. Rather, they live in fine homes, with servants. In a word, while communist ideology rails against inequality, the "new boss" is much like the "old boss." Only worse.

The difference, of course, is that more of the general population in capitalist societies enjoy material pleasures of life than do those living under socialist systems. It should come as no surprise that the Berlin Wall was built not to keep people out of communist East Berlin, but rather to keep them in. Desperate people were shot trying to scale the Berlin Wall and cross over to West Germany. Likewise, thousands died in the ocean trying to escape communist Cuba and communist Vietnam, and are still fleeing communist Venezuela today.

Communist systems either ignore this hypocrisy or make lame efforts to defend the privileges of the Party elite. In *Animal Farm*, for example, the pigs justify having a monopoly on apples and milk. As the propaganda pig, Squealer, explained, the pigs needed this food more than the other animals so they could better manage the farm — and keep Farmer Jones from coming back.

The leftist playbook has not changed all that much. In remarks that seem to be taken from arguments made by those on the Left today, Squealer insists that "Science" (capitalized in the book) has "proved" that the pigs needed the apples and milk. Today, the Left's Squealers argue that "science" proves all sorts of things that advance their radical agenda.

Another important plot detail of Orwell's novel is the corruption of the basic constitution of Animal Farm, known as "The Seven Commandments." Over time, the ruling pigs subtly alter the protections found therein, until eventually the commandments' catchphrase "All animals are equal" becomes "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." Had the pigs simply announced that they were going to disregard the Seven Commandments, they no doubt would have encountered fierce opposition. But after years of disobedience to their basic constitution, with all their clever arguments as to why making subtle changes to the farm's basic law was necessary, when the pigs finally jettison the commandments toward the end of the book, it is too late for the other animals to resist.

The "pigs" of our day do the same thing with our Constitution. Squealer was the propaganda mouthpiece for the pigs. Now, those who would "fundamentally transform" America — the words of former President Barack Obama — toss out phrases such as "living Constitution" to calm the populace and con them into accepting the loss of their liberties.

Orwell's fairy tale should be a warning to us today — it should make us recognize the devious strategy and tactics of would-be totalitarians. Armed with this knowledge, we should take every opportunity to counter these evil schemes. ■

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The Communist Manifesto — BOOK

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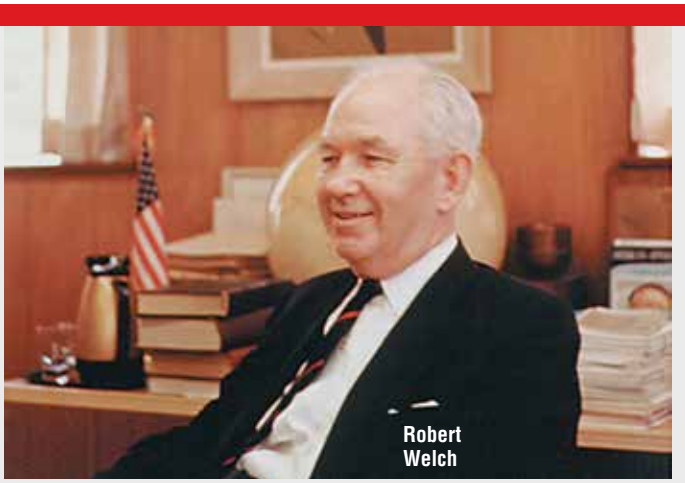
TAKING ACTION

What a Constitutionalist President Would Look Like

by William S. Hahn, CEO of The John Birch Society


Robert Welch

Ask most Americans what they would do if they were to become president, and chances are that most of their answers would involve unconstitutional — but well-intentioned — actions. Of course, we know where the road "paved with good intentions" leads, and we need limitations on government. A president should not be able to do whatever he wants, but only what is constitutionally permissible. Robert Welch, founder of The John Birch Society (parent organization of *The New American*), addressed this question in an article to members in March 1968.

Welch, a practical constitutionalist, wrote several pages of suggested actions to get America back on track. Keep in mind, the mission he laid out for the Society ("less government, more responsibility, and — with God's help — a better world") formulated the basis for his answer. While written in 1968 — 10 years after the JBS founding meeting — his sage advice stands the test of time. We present it here in greatly condensed, edited form.

First Things First

Tell the American people the facts of our current situation. The inaugural address would completely explain the extremely serious dangers that threaten us.

Put none but patriots in charge. Members of the Council on Foreign Relations, Bilderberg attendees, United Nations scholars, and other anti-American globalists would be thrown out of and barred from the Cabinet and other administrative positions.

Restore confidence in the U.S. dollar. Cut all foreign aid, sell all government-owned and -operated businesses to private industry, cut all wasteful expenditures, and collect all foreign debts in gold or American dollars. We would also recommend ending the Federal Reserve, backing the U.S. dollar with precious metals, and allowing competing currencies.

Around the World

Stop helping the communists, and sever all diplomatic relations with all communist regimes.

End America's foreign military adventures, and build up the military to be ready to defend against any attack.

Get the United States out of the UN, and the UN out of the United States.

Within the United States

End the socialist propaganda in education and media and teach the basics of Americanism.

Empower congressional committees to root out corruption and unconstitutional spending, and end political persecution against Americans.

Impeach federal justices legislating from the bench, at all levels.

Remove all communists from the federal government, and try them for treason according to the law.

Support our local police forces. Restore proper balance of law and order to allow local police to be guardians of life and property and not bystanders that merely aid victims.

Put government on a diet: Diagnose all spending via the U.S. Constitution; any unconstitutional spending gets cut. Programs that make people dependent upon government should be phased out to help citizens transition to independence.

Eliminate all executive orders that circumvent the legislative and judicial process.

Kill the federal income tax, and fund the U.S. government constitutionally through excise taxes, tariffs, and duties.

Extract government from all unconstitutional areas — especially all industry — returning government to its original purpose of protecting lives and property.

What Matters Most

We would turn this nation back to a belief in morality, in dignity, in self-reliance, in cleanliness, in good taste and good manners, and to a sound sense of values based on all that man has learned, or should have learned, from the past. We would try to make America understand the truth that no nation has ever been happy except during those eras when devotion to God, country, and family were taken for granted as virtues. Having finally routed the forces of evil now arrayed against us in the most sinister and extensive conspiracy of all human history, we would try to set our country on the right course to live out its great destiny and — with God's help — lead the way to a better world.

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